

THE CHEMIST & DRUGGIST

MERCHANT SHIPPERS' ISSUE

MARCH, 8, 1913

A Weekly Journal of Pharmacy and the Drug and Chemical Trades.
The Official Organ of Nineteen Societies of Chemists in the British Empire.

Published at the Head Office : 42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Branch Offices : Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, Australia.

Subscription, 10s. per annum, including "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary." Price of this issue, 6d., post free.

CONTENTS.

Vol. LXXXII., No. 10 (Series No. 1723).

[The folios in this List and in the Summary are those at the top of the pages, but references in the Text are to the Index folios at the bottom of the pages.]

	PAGE		PAGE
A Dublin Pharmacy	119	Commercial Sale Rooms	114
Active Nitrogen	82	Marriages	105
Ambergris Finds	113	National Health Insurance	102
Australasian News	87	Notes on Novelities	99
Birth	105	Observations and Reflections	95
Business Changes	112	Personalities	101
Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland	118	Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain: Council-meeting	91
Cinnamon	115	Pharmaceutical Society of the Orange Free State	88
Coming Events	94	Port of Southampton	120
Companies and Company News	90	Pyorrhœa Alveolaris	122
Correspondence	124	Retrospect	123
Deaths	105	Scottish News	86
Editorial Articles:		Shops Act	83
A New Epoch in Pharmacy.—X. Intervention	96	Society of Chemical Industry	108
Cod-liver oil	97	Society of Public Analysts	93
Celluloid Legislation	98	South African News	87
English News	83	Synthetic Sentences	118
Eucalyptus Oil	82	Trade Report	108
French News	86	Winter Session	106
Information Department	94	Woolballs in Lambs	123
Irish News	85		
Hitchin Lavender	123		
Legal Reports	88		

In the Coloured Supplement.

American Letter.	India and the East.
Collegiate Football.	Institute of Chemistry.
Festivities.	

YOUR COLONIAL CONNECTION

Having secured the interest and co-operation of the merchant shipper, the maker of, or dealer in, chemists' goods, naturally looks now for the best method of attracting the buyer in the British Colonies and Dependencies and in foreign countries. The Publisher has foreseen this, and has prepared a booklet showing the most effective and least expensive way to do it. This booklet ought to be in the hands of every manufacturer, exporter, and wholesaler connected with the drug-trade. It can be had for the asking. Incidentally it describes the

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN ISSUE

of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST to be published

ON APRIL 26.

A post-card or telephone message to 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., will secure prompt attention.

SUMMARY.

The more notable items only are dealt with.

The cod-liver oil position is discussed succinctly on p. 98. We extract some ideas on shop fitting from a well-known Dublin pharmacy (p. 119).

Mr. Andrew McMurray is the new President of the O.F.S. Pharmaceutical Society (p. 88).

How the Port of Southampton has grown in commercial importance is told on pp. 120-121.

Mr. Samuel Suffern is the new President of the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland (p. 118).

Pyorrhœa alveolaris, or Riggs' disease, is described in an article on p. 122, and hints given as to its treatment.

The history, botany, cultivation, and commerce of cinnamon are the subject of an illustrated article beginning on p. 115.

Apropos of a reported big find of ambergris, we print particulars regarding such finds since the eighteenth century (p. 113).

We describe and illustrate, beginning on p. 99, a considerable number of trade novelties and other products of interest to business men.

Fully two pages of letters are concerned with various aspects of Insurance dispensing. Some of them are exceptionally pertinent (pp. 124-126).

The legal actions reported include an olive-oil contract decided in favour of F. Boehm, Ltd., and a libel action against Felton & Crepin, which they won (pp. 89-91).

London chemists (retail and wholesale) should be on the *qui vive* in regard to the celluloid bills which threaten to interfere with them, as explained in an Editorial beginning on p. 97.

The Hon. R. J. Strutt has been able to get nitrogen to combine with carbon. He lectured on the subject of "active" nitrogen before the Royal Institution last week. We report his lecture on p. 82.

At the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council in London this week it was announced that legislation is to be promoted to get a dispenser's qualification, and the veronal scheduling is revised in a modification of the first form (p. 93).

"Intervention" is the subject of the Insurance Act Editorial. It refers to the appointment by Mr. Masterman of a committee of five to inquire into the Huntrods-Leggett allegations as to dispensing (see particulars on p. 102), and the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee's ruling as to pricing. The farthing arrangement is objected to, and an up and down method advocated (p. 96).

Market price changes have been few, including a further advance in cod-liver oil, citric acid, and Japanese peppermint oil to arrive. Shellac, soy, cocaine (seconds), morphine, turpentine, potash prussiate, cocoa-butter, and ammonia sulphate are cheaper (p. 108).

Eucalyptus Oil.

By Ernest J. Parry, B.Sc., F.I.C.

THERE has been for some time past a good deal of eucalyptus oil on the market which has characters approximating to the following:

Sp. gr. ...	...	0.909 to 0.911
Optical rotation ...	...	-9° to -11°
Eucalyptol ...	...	48 to 58 per cent.
Phellandrene ...	...	crystals formed, but not enough to solidify the mass.

The odour is characteristic of oil of *Eucalyptus amygdalina*. In those cases where the figures fall outside the Pharmacopœia limits no difficulty arises, as the oils are, of course, condemned on the figures. But where the figures fall just within the official limits a different question arises. It has been contended that such oils, which have been standardised down to the official limit figures with amygdalina oil, are in fact "B.P." I think this contention is totally unfounded, and that the practice of diluting B.P. oils with amygdalina oils should be stopped, on the ground that the resulting oil is not B.P.

The wording of the Pharmacopœia is "the oil distilled from the fresh leaves of *Eucalyptus Globulus* and other species of *Eucalyptus*." Then follow the characters and tests. It should be noted that the wording is not "and all other species," nor "and any other species." It is quite clear then that no oil is in accordance with the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia unless it is distilled from a species of eucalyptus that will yield an oil having the characters and tests mentioned. Now it is a fact, universally admitted, that the oil of *E. amygdalina* will not answer these requirements; indeed, the phellandrene test was introduced with the specific intention of excluding amygdalina oil, so that the oil of *E. amygdalina* is most emphatically "not B.P." It would be stultifying the Pharmacopœia if it could be argued that it is legitimate to mix such a product, which is clearly excluded from official medicinal oils, with a genuine normal, official oil, to the extent of causing the figures of the mixed sample to just fall within official limits, and, in my opinion, it would be quite as legitimate to use camphor oil or castor oil, or anything else, for the purpose of such "standardisation," as it is to use the non-official, "not B.P." oil of *Eucalyptus amygdalina*.

Active Nitrogen.

THE Friday evening discourse at the Royal Institution on February 28 was by the Hon. R. J. Strutt, the subject being "Active Nitrogen." Lord Rayleigh was in the chair, and among those present were Sir James Dewar, Sir J. J. Thomson, Sir William Crookes, Sir William Tilden, Dr. R. Messel, and Mr. Grant Hooper. The lecture was really a series of experiments with active nitrogen, many of them difficult but performed with a facility which reminded the audience of the work of Sir James Dewar. First of all it was explained by means of a lantern diagram, and the apparatus itself how nitrogen is converted into an active form by passing a stream of the gas through a vacuum discharge tube, the gas being drawn through by means of an air-pump. The nitrogen acquires the property of luminosity, which appears as a golden glow, and retains it for some time. The nitrogen in the process becomes dissociated into separate nitrogen atoms, which gradually reunite, and, as the lecturer expressed it, "in the course of their wanderings to find suitable partners give out luminosity." The time taken for this may be considerable, in some conditions up to half an hour. As it has been stated in Germany that oxygen is necessary for this phenomenon, the lecturer assured the audience that nothing but nitrogen is used in the experiments. He explained that commercial nitrogen for this work is freed from any residue of oxygen by suspending in the jar of gas some sticks of phosphorus. Whilst oxygen is present there is luminosity in the oxygen, and experimentally, it has been found that even with a one hundred-

thousandth part of oxygen the phosphorus glows. The nitrogen employed does not therefore contain any appreciable quantity of oxygen. Moreover, it has been found that with 2 per cent. of oxygen present in the nitrogen the phenomena do not take place, and smaller amounts present make the effects less obvious than when pure nitrogen is used. An alternative method of producing the luminosity was then demonstrated. A flask of rarefied nitrogen was placed in an electro-magnetic coil: the gas became highly luminous. It was further shown that plunging the luminous flask into liquid air quickened the process of recovery, although at first the glow was brighter for a short space of time. This is, said the lecturer, the only instance in which liquid air is known to accelerate chemical action. Next it was shown that certain other conditions quickened the reunion of the nitrogen atoms, an oxidised copper wire dropped into the luminous nitrogen immediately quenched the glow. Then followed experiments to illustrate the active condition of the nitrogen, chiefly in regard to its union with carbon compounds. When acetylene was admitted to the active nitrogen from a supplementary vessel a lilac colour was produced, this colour being characteristic of burning cyanogen. Chloroform vapour gave a copper colour, but the reaction was not really very different from that which took place in the case of acetylene. Hydrocyanic acid is what is produced, this being demonstrated by condensing the gas on a tube cooled by liquid air, and forming potassium cyanide by washing with caustic potash. The Prussian-blue test with iron was then shown. When tin chloride was introduced into the nitrogen a pretty azure blue luminosity resulted, much purer in tint than the ordinary Bunsen flame colour. With carbon bisulphide a blue deposit was obtained in the tube, which has been identified as nitrogen sulphide. This is not, however, the only product of the reaction, as monosulphide of carbon is formed later on as a brown deposit. With metals the spectrum of the metal is always obtained in a stream of active nitrogen. Whether in all cases this is due to chemical action is not clear, but in some cases there is chemical action. Mercury is a case in point, where it was shown that mercury nitride is formed, this substance being detected by the cracking noise when the tube was afterwards heated. Active nitrogen has some analogies with ozone, and he recalled a letter which Faraday, towards the close of his life, wrote to Schönbein in which he suggested that the apparent quiet simplicity of nitrogen might be a sham.

In the library was shown a costly collection of precious metals by Johnson, Matthey & Co., Ltd., and Mr. F. Darton was exhibiting electrical apparatus. Another interesting feature was a collection of letters from celebrated chemists, including one from Sir Humphry Davy exhibited by Sir William Tilden.

Among the lecture arrangements at the Royal Institution after Easter are the following: Dr. A. S. Woodward, two lectures on "Recent Discoveries of Early Man"; Professor W. Bateson, Fullerian Professor of Physiology, two lectures on "The Heredity of Sex and some Cognate Problems"; Professor W. Stirling, three lectures on "Recent Physiological Inquiries: (1) Protective and other Reflex Acts; (2) Equilibrium and the Sixth Sense; (3) Ductless Glands and their Dominating Influence"; Dr. E. Frankland Armstrong, two lectures on (1) "The Bridge into Life"; (2) "Colour in Flowers"; Professor W. J. Pope, three lectures on "Recent Chemical Advances: (1) Molecular Architecture; (2) Chemistry in Space; (3) The Structure of Crystals"; Professor E. Rutherford, three lectures on "Radioactivity: (1) The Alpha Rays and their connection with the Transformations; (2) The Origin of the Beta and Gamma Rays and the connection between them; (3) The Radio-active State of the Earth and Atmosphere." The Friday evening meetings will be resumed on April 4, when Dr. James J. Dobbie will deliver a discourse on "The Spectroscope in Organic Chemistry."

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE LEAFLETS.—Three new leaflets have been issued this week. No. 263 deals with mustard beetles, the treatment consisting of trapping and spraying with lead arsenate; No. 264 deals with the cultivation of onions; and No. 265 with rabbit-breeding for smallholders.

The Shops Act, 1912.

Edinburgh.—The Secretary for Scotland has confirmed the closing order for chemists, etc., in Edinburgh, on Wednesdays at 1 P.M.

Grays.—The Essex County Council has issued a closing order for chemists with the following hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 8.30 P.M.; Wednesdays, 1 P.M.; Fridays, 9.30 P.M.; Saturdays, 10.30 P.M.

Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea.—The Essex County Council on February 28 issued orders fixing Wednesday as the early-closing day for chemists.

Leeds.—The application made by the Leeds Chemists' Association for a half-day closing order, made many weeks since, having had no apparent effect, a reminder was sent to the Corporation recently. In reply, the Corporation Shops Committee states that when the Shops Inspector has finished certain inquiries a special sub-committee will further consider the matter.

Newry.—The Newry Urban District Council on February 17 made a closing order for chemists and druggists, fixing Wednesday as the half-holiday.

Osselt.—The Home Secretary has confirmed the closing order for chemists at 1 P.M. on Tuesdays.

Selby.—The West Riding County Council has made a closing order for chemists and drug-store proprietors for Thursdays at 1 P.M., and on Mondays at 8 P.M., Tuesdays 7 P.M., Wednesdays 7 P.M., Fridays 8 P.M., and Saturdays 10 P.M.

This Week's "Punch"

contains several items which are calculated to make a chemist smile. First among the pictured jokes is a chemist's shop with a worried-looking assistant, heavily laden with an old lady's impedimenta, standing in front of the dispensing-counter and at the side of a telephone-booth (which our American friends must not regard as typical of British pharmacies). The lady is inside the booth, and the inscription is:

Dear old Lady (using call-office telephone for the first time, to operator at the Exchange): "And as you've been so nice and attentive, my dear, I'm putting an extra penny in the box for yourself."

Passing over much humour of a general character, we come to a dinner-table by Mills with the following inscription:

Eminent Professor: "And so you see, my dear young lady, the electrons or β particles which are expelled from the atom lose their kinetic energy by impinging on the gaseous molecules, which they ionise, and when their velocity is reduced sufficiently are eventually swallowed up."

Dear Young Lady: "Oh, I see; but what fearfully rough luck on the electrons."

The fill-up paragraph is as follows:

From a Seed Catalogue.—"When the quantity in a penny packet is not stated, but only the price per oz., the quantity may be estimated in the following way: If the price, for example, is 1s. per oz., a penny packet will contain about one-twelfth of an oz., or, to put it in another way, twelve penny packets would make 1 oz. If the price is 6d. per oz., six packets will make about 1 oz., and so on."

"Dullish people, gardeners!" says "Punch." To us (C. & D.) it sounds like an extract from the Drug-tariff of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance.

IPSWICH CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.—The annual dinner will take place at the Great White Horse Hotel on April 9. Tickets (4s. 6d. each) from Mr. W. H. Stones, 21 Tacket Street, Ipswich.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.—A whist-drive and dance will be held in the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, Glasgow, on March 18. Tickets (gentleman's 5s. 6d., lady's 4s. 6d.) from Mr. W. J. Moffat, Hon. Secretary, 741 Pollokshaws Road.

CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.—The annual dinner has been arranged for April 3 at the Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C. Tickets (5s. 6d. each) may be had from Mr. A. R. Arrowsmith, Hon. Secretary of the Dinner Committee, 4 Stratford Place, Oxford Street, London, W. Application should be made not later than March 24.

INDIAN EUCALYPTUS OIL.—A correspondent of the "Madras Mail" states that a well-known Madras firm intend to open a large factory at Ootacamund for the distilling of eucalyptus oil on an extensive scale. It is believed there is a great future for such an undertaking, provided there is a sufficient supply of the mature eucalyptus-leaf.

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

The name of the defendants in the white-lead case reported last week is the Sanitary Paint Co., Ltd.

Mr. A. Francis, chemist and druggist, was granted a wine-licence at the Tredegar Licensing Sessions on March 3.

Mr. F. A. Greet (trading as N. M. Toomer), of Northbrook Street, Newbury (Berks), has applied to the Town Council for a poison-licence.

Plans on behalf of Messrs. Raybould & Whitehouse, wholesale druggists, Reform Works, Dudley, for a warehouse in Wellington Road, have been passed by the local Town Council.

The Salford Town Council have granted permission to Burroughs Wellcome & Co., to use the tuberculosis dispensary for the purpose of exhibiting to medical practitioners in the borough a series of preparations of the various forms of tuberculin.

The late Mr. Stanley Gibbons, founder of the company of postage-stamp dealers, began buying and selling stamps in a very small way at the age of fifteen, when apprenticed to his father, a chemist, of Plymouth. We told the story some years ago how a sailor brought a sackful of foreign stamps into his father's pharmacy, and that gave him the start.

The Public Weal.

Mr. J. Forrester, chemist and druggist, Cleethorpes, has been nominated for election on Lindsey (Lincs.) County Council.

Mr. W. Giles, chemist and druggist, of Carville, has been re-elected unopposed a member of Northumberland County Council.

Mr. Samuel Jones, chemist and druggist, of Highfield, Whitford, has been nominated for election on Flintshire County Council.

Mr. F. W. Whitwell, chemist and druggist, of 283 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, has been re-elected a member of the Soke of Peterborough County Council.

Mr. William Edmondson, chemist and druggist, of Kendal, has been re-elected a member of the Westmorland County Council for the Sandes Ward of Kendal.

Historical Medical Exhibition.

Among other historical medical objects of exceptional interest that have been secured for the Historical Medical Exhibition, organised by Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, are many personal relics of Dr. Edward Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination; the original autograph journal and manuscripts of Henry Hill Hickman, F.R.C.S., the discoverer of the application of the principle of anaesthesia by inhalation for surgical operations (1823); and personal relics of Sir James Y. Simpson.

Guardians' Doings.

The Orsett (Essex) Guardians have had prepared a return showing the cost of drugs in the out-relief districts for the past year. As the cost in one district was over 30l. and in another only 7l., the medical officers have been asked for particulars of the drugs supplied.

The Local Government Board, in sanctioning an allowance to the Workhouse Medical Officer of 10l. for drugs, intimated to the Billericay (Essex) Guardians that similar payments will not be allowed in future, as it is desirable that all workhouse drugs and medicines should be supplied by the Guardians, and not by the doctor.

Fairchild Scholarship and Prizes.

The application form for competitors in the examinations for the 1913 Fairchild Scholarship and prizes is now obtainable from Mr. A. E. Holden, Secretary to the Committee of Trustees, Albert Chambers, 64 and 65 Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C. The conditions and other particulars are given on the fly-leaf of the application form. It is interesting to note that, although students are allowed to send in their applications not later than June 1, one

has already been received from Ireland. It is, we think, an advantage to students to make early application. It will be remembered that since the last examination arrangements have been made to pay the railway expenses of candidates, which will be a boon to those who live at a distance from one of the centres of examination. The conditions applicable are set forth in the particulars which Mr. Holden supplies to applicants post free.

F.R.S.

The Council of the Royal Society have recommended for election into the Fellowship the following fifteen men of science from the list of candidates:

Professor V. H. Blackman, Dr. William Bulloch, Mr. David L. Chapman, Professor William E. Dalby, Dr. T. Renton Elliott, Professor John C. Fields, Dr. John S. Flett, Professor James P. Hill, Mr. Arthur R. Hinks, Professor Frederick Keeble, Professor Arthur Keith, Dr. Keith Lucks, Professor Owen W. Richardson, Mr. Walter Roschlain, and Mr. George W. Walker.

Professor Keith is the Conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, Professor Richardson holds the chair of Physics in Princetown University, and Mr. Roschlain is known for his researches on glass.

Analysts' Affairs.

The Southampton analyst reports that of six olive oil samples one was found to be adulterated, containing 16.66 per cent. of cottonseed oil. A subsequent sample was genuine.

The Middlesex analyst during the past quarter analysed the following samples: Borax 53, glycerin 7, castor oil 6, camphorated oil 4, eucalyptus oil 4, seidlitz powder 4, tincture of iodine 1, acid calcium phosphate 2, tincture of opium 1, formalin 1, boric acid 1, and zinc ointment 1. One sample of acid calcium phosphate contained 60 per cent. of calcium sulphate. Seven borax samples and one glycerin sample contained traces of arsenic.

The Stepney analyst reports having examined during the past quarter twenty-five samples of lime-water, two samples of Bland's pills, and four samples of iron pills containing siliceous mineral matter varying from 10 to 18 per cent. The vendors were cautioned. Two saffron samples contained 30 per cent. of foreign mineral matter (borax and nitre), and the other 8 per cent. of foreign mineral matter (borax). The vendor of this latter sample was fined 17s. and 23s. costs, while in the two former cases fines of 1s., with 44s. and 23s. costs, were imposed respectively. The other samples were genuine.

Contracts.

Mitford and Launditch Guardians.—Messrs. Peck & Dent, for drugs.

Liverpool Town Council.—Sanitary Dry Lime Co., Bootle, for an annual supply of disinfectants, etc.

Islington Borough Council.—Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., and the Sanitas Co., Ltd., for annual supplies of disinfectants.

Marylebone Borough Council.—Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., for carbolic acid at 1s. 3½d. per gal. Adcock's for carbolic acid powder, at 59l. 11s. per ton. Exors. of W. Sharratt, for "Kerzene," at 1s. 6d. per gal. Boake, Roberts & Co., for 20-oz. tins of "Sulphume," at 6l. 6s. per gross, or 12s. per doz., less 7½ per cent. discount. Sanitas Company, Ltd., for formalin tablets, at 2l. per 20 lb.

London County Council.—For annual supplies to all their asylums: Extract of beef, Liebig's Extract of Meat Co., Ltd., 207l. 2s. 10d. (seven months' supply). Waterproof and indiarubber goods: J. Ingram & Son, 497l. 17s. 2d.; North British Rubber Company, Ltd., 66l. 11s. 8d.; Geo. McLellan & Co., 82l. 15s. 9d.; J. E. Baxter & Co., Ltd., 9l. 16s.; Victoria Rubber Company, Ltd., 76l. 10s. Sponges: John Goldhill & Sons, 46l. 10s. Drugs: Thos. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, at 49 per cent. off tenderer's catalogue prices. Druggists' sundries: C. J. Hewlett & Son, Ltd., 25 per cent. off tenderer's catalogue prices. Photographic material: Butler & Crispe, 52l. 16s. 4d.

Southampton Town Council.—W. Bates & Co., Ltd., for supplies of the following disinfectants to the isolation hospital and the hospital ship: Bond's fluid (Grindley's), 1s. 4d. per gal.; carbolic acid (97 per cent. commercial), 1s. 9d. per gal.; carbolic acid powder (15 per cent. commercial), 2l. 10s. per ton; chloros, 1s. per gal.; chloride of lime (best), 9s. per cwt.; formalin (Schering's), 1s. per lb.; glycerin (commercial), 1s. 1d. per lb.; izal powder (No. 1), 5l. per ton; Jeyes' fluid, 4s. 6d. per gal.; liquor carbo. detergens (Wright's), 2s. per lb.; phenate of soda (40 per cent. solution), 1s. per gal.; sulphur dioxide (20-oz. cylinders), 5l. 10s. per gross; Pain's smoke-cases (for drain-testing), 2l. 10s. per gross.

Fulham Borough Council.—For annual supplies of disinfectants: Sanitas Co., Ltd., Sanitas soluble blocks, 2l. 19s. per 100; permanganate of potash, 4½d. per lb.; crude Sanitas, 3s. 6d. per gal.; disinfecting fluid, 3s. 3d. per gal.; Sanitas powder, 1d. packets, 7s. 6d. per gross; Sanitas powder, 1s. tins, 9s. per dozen; Sanitas soap (No. 2), 1l. 8s. per cwt. Adcock's sulphur cakes, 12s. 11d. per cwt.; formalin, 3s. 9d. per gal. Middleton Bros., perchloride of mercury, 2s. 11d. per lb.; chloride of ammonium, 3½d. per lb. Newton, Chambers & Co., Ltd., disinfecting fluid, 3s. 6d. per gal. Thalassol Manufacturing Company, disinfecting fluid, 2s. per gal. H. E. Hope & Co., disinfecting fluid, 1s. per gal. Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., disinfecting fluid, 1s. per gal.

Store-prices.

The alterations in prices in the Stores' circular of the Army and Navy Co-operative Society, Ltd., are:—*Advanced*: Bromural, to 1s. and 2s. per tube; bergamot essence, 1s. 2d. per bottle; Congreve's elixir, 2s., 3s. 4d., and 9s. per bottle; Ems pastilles, 1s. per box; Ems salts, 1s. per box; menthol-cones, 8d. and 1s. 4d.; flat ditto, 8d. and 1s.; Howards' quinine, 1s. 4d. per oz. bot., ½ oz. 8½d., ¼ oz. 3d.; Alexandrian senna-pods, 1s. 6d. per lb.; spiritine, 2s. 2d., 3s. 4d., and 5s. 2d. per doz.; ditto refills, 3s. 4d. per doz.; Chalk drop-bottles, 8½d. *Reduced*: Citronella oil, 5d. and 9d. per bottle; Hair's asthma-cure, 2s. 6d. and 3s. 11d. per bottle; Vichy pastilles, 8½d. and 1s. 3½d. per box. Recent additions are: Petroleum-oil capsules (½ teaspoonful), 7½d. per box and 1s. 6d. per box of six dozen; A. & N. asthma-cigarettes, 1s. per box; "Mapurko" hair-restorer, 4s. 3d. per pot; and "The Hyomee" exhaler, 21s. Three pages are devoted also to A. & N. specialties.

The March circular of the Civil Service Supply Association announces that the following prices have been *Advanced*: Carbonate of ammonia, 6½d. per lb.; Contrexéville (Pavillon) water, 9d. per bottle; encryl tooth-powder, 6d. and 1s. per box; Kirby's soft glycerin jujubes, 1s. and 1s. 9½d. per box; A. & H. glycerin and black-currant pastilles, 10d. per box; Neave's food, 9d. per tin; listerine, 2s. 2d. and 4s. per bottle; Luce's eau de Cologne, 2s., 4s., 5s. per bottle; Yardley's otto of rose soap, 1s. 2d. per tablet; Howards' quinine sulphate, ½ oz. 8½d., 1 oz. 1s. 4d.; Rowland's kalydor, 2s. 2d. and 4s. 2d. per bottle; Macassar oil, 2s. 4d. and 8s. per bottle; odonto, 2s. 4d. per box; seltzogene-powders, 3 pt. 1s. 3d., 5 pt. 1s. 8d., 8 pt. 2s. 9d. per box of twelve; Bayley's spermaceti soap, 1s. 6d. per tablet; spiritine, 3s. 3d. per doz. tins; quinine tabloids, 2 gr., 100 1s.; 3 gr., 25 5½d., 100 1s. 5d.; Tidman's sea-salt, 1d. packets 11d. doz.; Whelp-ton's pills, 1s. box. *Reduced*: Calumba-root, 1s. 1d. per lb.; chamomile-flowers, 1s. 3d. per lb.; Field's eau de Cologne soap, 9½d. per box; glyco-thymoline, 4s. per bottle; tincture of benzoin, 8d. per 2-oz. bottle; tincture of steel, 6d. per 2-oz. bottle; tincture of bark, 10½d. per 2-oz. bottle.

Birmingham Notes.

Mr. Wilfred Southall, Ph.C., has been elected President of the Midland Free Church Council.

There is a further reduction in the number of panel chemists, and the same reason is given: "It is not worth the trouble."

Mr. H. W. Jones, F.C.S., formerly of Coventry, is now chief of the chemical staff of the Dunlop Tyre Co., Aston Cross, Birmingham.

There is a great race for appointment of clerks of the several grades under the local Insurance Committee, and some of the more scientific posts are being sought after by junior pharmacists, shorter hours and better pay being the inducements.

An unseemly wrangle is in progress in the local Press concerning the alleged attitude of panel doctors to panel chemists, and the partiality of the former for company shops in preference to the "common or ordinary garden variety," as one terms it.

The selection of Professor W. P. Wynne, F.R.S., as President of the Chemistry Section of the British Association at the Birmingham meeting this year is singularly happy, seeing that he received his early training in Messrs. Southall Bros. & Barclay's laboratory. The Botany Section is to be presided over by Miss Ethel Sargent, F.L.S.

The Birmingham branch of the Commercial Travellers' Christian Association has arranged for the annual conference of delegates to be held on Saturday, March 29, at "Uffculme," Moor Green, Birmingham, the residence of Mr. Barrow Cadbury, who has placed this beautiful residence, with its grounds, at the disposal of the members for a week-end gathering, from Saturday to Monday morning. Mr. Wilfred F. Southall is to give part of his lecture on Palestine.

Liverpool Notes.

The Liverpool Chemists' Association are calling a meeting for Wednesday evening, March 12, to discuss "The Shops Act in Relation to the Insurance Act." Many chemists think the compulsory order should be set aside. The matter is to be well ventilated, and, if thought proper, steps will be taken to make the suburban chemists' present illegal position legal.

The question of secret commissions to nurses which was referred to at the meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association (reported in "Winter Session") has been taken up by the Liverpool papers. A chemist told a "Daily Post" reporter that nurses who ask for commission are "not of the best class." The matron of a nursing institution deprecates that nurses should resort to such methods of augmenting their incomes. Dr. Symes has also written to the "Daily Post" to state that in his forty years' experience he has only on one occasion been asked for a commission from a nurse. He refused it, and adds that this one case hardly justified a general charge against nurses.

Manchester Notes.

Mr. Marcus Tedderman, pharmacist, C.P.A. Buildings, Oxford Street, has a whole window devoted to a charming display of Amami specialities, which are attracting great attention.

One well-known wholesale house in Lancashire was so overwhelmed with work and orders this last month (as the result of the Insurance Act), that they called in all their travellers and representatives for a week.

After several weeks of downright hard work in connection with Insurance dispensing, several of the chemists are feeling the strain. One well-known South Manchester pharmacist has gone to Blackpool for a few days to recuperate.

The representatives of wholesale houses are all complaining of the shortage of money. Chemists doing a large amount of Insurance dispensing are not doing as much cash trade, having the greater bulk of their "takings" in "green scrips," and cannot pay ready cash until the Insurance Committee pays up.

Many Manchester chemists who had not answered the circular sent out by the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association Insurance Committee on February 22 have received a postcard from the Hon. Secretary during the week reminding them of the importance of every chemist sending in the particulars asked for. If pricing the prescriptions is the cause of the delay, they are asked to give simply the number dispensed instead.

Poisoning Fatalities

Three deaths from the effects of taking poison have been chronicled during the week. Maria Dakin, the wife of a

Derby provision-dealer, living in Nottingham, who had been in the habit for thirty-six years of taking chlorodyne, died from an overdose of this preparation. Miss Wills also succumbed to an overdose of morphine. Spirit of salt was used for suicidal death by Ada Louisa Stoncham (33) at Romford.

From Various Courts.

At the Central Criminal Court on March 5, Harry Frederick Virtue (45), alias Richard Henry Barber, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment in the second division for giving a false certificate of death and pretending to possess the qualification L.R.C.P. (*C. & D.*, Feb. 1, index folio 182).

The pharmacy of Mr. A. Middleton, chemist and druggist, 25 Lister Gate, Nottingham, was broken into early on the morning of February 26. Hearing the crash of glass, Police Constable Horabin, on making investigation, found a man behind Mr. Middleton's counter armed with a pair of scissors, a hammer, and an iron bar. After a struggle the man was locked up. At the Guildhall next day he gave his name as Joseph Murphy. He was remanded for inquiries to be made.

At Newbury, Berks, on February 24, William Frank Lowe was charged with obtaining by false pretences goods to the value of 1*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* from Messrs. Hickman & Metcalf, chemists, Market Place, Newbury, on February 18. Accused, who is the son of a grocer at Tadley, was stated to have obtained the articles by means of an order purporting to be signed by his father. The latter denied having ordered the goods, but offered to pay for them. Prisoner admitted having disposed of most of the articles. The Bench imposed a fine of 2*l.*

At the South-West London Police Court, on February 27, Thomas Stephen Clay, warehouseman, was remanded on a charge of stealing 105 lb. of santolin and other chemicals, the property of Messrs. May & Baker, Ltd., chemical manufacturers, Garden Wharf, Battersea (*C. & D.*, March 1, index folio 336). At the same court, on March 3, Isidore Leifert, a Russian subject, who was stated to carry on a retail drug business under the style of Darch & Co. at Temperance Buildings, Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, was charged with receiving chemicals, valued at over 500*l.*, from Clay. Accused was remanded, bail being refused.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

In November last (*C. & D.* November 16, 1912, index folio 745) the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland adopted the following amended regulation (ix.) regarding the date for nominations for Council candidates:

All new candidates for a seat on the Council shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Society or associate druggists; the nomination paper, with an intimation in writing from the candidate that he will serve if elected, to be lodged with the Registrar not later than twelve o'clock noon on the Monday fortnight before the annual meeting.

Notification has now appeared in the "Dublin Gazette" that the regulation has been approved by the Privy Council in accordance with the provisions of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) 1875.

Brevities.

Mr. William Smullion, Ph.C., late of Messrs. Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson, Ltd., has opened a business at South Richmond Street, Portobello, Rathmines.

The Cork Chamber of Commerce have nominated Mr. P. J. D. Fielding, F.C.S., to give evidence on their behalf before the Committee on Medical Benefit for Ireland at its sitting in Cork.

Mr. R. A. Wilson, Ph.C., late of Messrs. Hamilton, Long & Co., Ltd., chemists, Dublin, who is leaving for Canada, was last week entertained by his colleagues and presented with a suit-case.

Dr. E. S. Leybourne has been appointed a director of, Messrs. Hamilton, Long & Co., Ltd., in place of the late

Dr. Glendinning. Dr. Leybourne was an assistant with the company before he obtained his medical diploma in 1890.

Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., wholesale medicine contractors, have written to the Strabane Board of Guardians, enclosing a statement showing the balance due for unreturned empties and asking for a remittance. The Clerk stated that he had written to the dispensary doctors, asking them to have the empties returned. It was decided to renew the request.

At the annual meeting of the Belfast Wholesale Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association in Belfast on February 27, Mr. Wm. Doig was unanimously elected President of the Society for the ensuing year. Mr. Doig is head of the firm of Wm. Doig & Co., druggists, 39 Mill Street, Belfast, and is representative of the druggists on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. He is also a member of the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland.

The Londonderry County Council have passed a resolution protesting against their being asked to bear any proportion of the cost of providing tuberculosis treatment. "We are willing and prepared," the resolution states, "to undertake the heavy financial burden of one-half of the cost of providing treatment for the dependents of insured and also of non-insured persons; but as representing the ratepayers we cannot consent to accept financial responsibility as regards insured persons, the cost of whose treatment in excess of their contributions should clearly be an Imperial charge."

Medical Benefit.

The Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Treasury to consider the question of the proposed extension to Ireland of the Medical Benefit of the National Insurance Act met in Belfast on March 4, and received evidence from the Secretary of the Orange and Protestant Friendly Society and the Rev. P. Kerlin. The latter was in favour of the proposal, and he gave the Committee particulars of the medical opposition in Derry to contract practice. At the meeting on Wednesday five witnesses were heard, representing benefit societies, trades councils, and the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce. All supported the extension of the benefit.

SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

The premises of Mr. Charles Chree, chemist and druggist, 156 Union Grove, Aberdeen, were entered by burglars last Sunday, and 197 was taken from the till.

Mr. Hendrick, until recently public analyst for Aberdeenshire, and Mr. J. F. Tocher, his successor, have reported to the County Council on their work in 1912. Mr. Hendrick examined 185 samples in nine months and Mr. Tocher, sixty-seven samples in three months. The total included five samples of boric acid ointment, of which one was deficient in boric acid (8.75 per cent. only). All the other samples of drugs were found to be genuine.

Edinburgh

At Inverleith, on Wednesday, February 26, the Edinburgh Pharmacy football team beat Morningside Athletic "A" by five goals to two.

Mr. Victor Wright, chemist and druggist, Edinburgh, delivered a lantern-lecture on Edinburgh, in Burntisland, on Wednesday, March 5.

St. Cuthbert's Co-operative Association, Ltd., are removing their chemist's branch at West Nicolson Street to more accessible premises in the main thoroughfare of Nicolson Street. The "Store's" new building in Leith Walk is also approaching completion, and it is said that a drug-shop will be opened here shortly.

Glasgow and the West.

The Joubert Medicine Co. have opened premises at 126 Renfield Street, and are specialising in "Juphlox" Pile Pills.

Probably as the result of inconvenience during the carters' strike, a leading wholesale house in the city are now delivering goods by motor.

A company has been formed in Glasgow under the name of The Pure Aëration Supply (Scotland), Ltd., with offices at 98 West Regent Street, for supplying patent syphons for home aëration.

Claims against the late Alexander Reid, chemist and druggist, 456 Paisley Road West, Govan, Glasgow, should be lodged with Messrs. David and Stodart J. Mitchell, 24 Adelphi, Aberdeen.

Mr. A. Spy, chemist and druggist, who has been for some years with Messrs. John McMillan, Ltd., at their St. George's Cross branch, has left for Australia on a prolonged holiday, with a view to settling should he find Australia to his liking.

FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

DENTISTS GIVING ANÆSTHETICS.—The Tenth Correctional Chamber (Paris Police Court) has recently dealt with a charge against two dentists of illegal practice of medicine by giving their patients anæsthetics. The Court held that fully qualified dentists, holding a diploma in accordance with the law of November 30, 1892, have the right to use anæsthetics without calling in an M.D., and consequently discharged the defendants as they held this diploma.

THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION.—As already announced, this Association is to meet at Tunis in Easter week (March 22 to March 28). A "Section of Pharmacological Sciences" is being organised, the Chairman being Professor Perrot, of the Paris Superior School of Pharmacy. He is well supported by the Tunisian pharmacists, a number of them sitting on his committee. M. Luciani, who acts as General Secretary of the Section, is the Chairman of the Tunisian Pharmacists' Association. His assistant-secretary, M. Bloch, and three of the Vice-Presidents are pharmacists. Some interesting excursions are promised, including, of course, a visit to ancient Carthage; and such pharmacists as are lucky enough to have a free ten days at Easter may be reminded that this season, bleak enough at home, is an ideal time to visit the shores of the Mediterranean.

THE X-RAYS AS A DEPILATORY.—To a lady in the show business a luxuriant beard is a small gold-mine, but a female post-office clerk may be excused if she is less convinced of the necessity of such virile attributes. Mademoiselle C. found her hirsute chin a decided drawback both from a professional and private point of view, and appealed to Dr. Delherm to relieve her of the encumbrance. The gallant doctor assured his fair client that she had no need to despair, and the x-rays, skilfully applied, proved in effect an efficient depilatory. In his anxiety to give the lady satisfaction he had unfortunately reckoned without the innate vanity of the sex. The disfigurement of her face by marks of burns which obstinately refused to disappear was (the doctor argued in defence) not a matter to engage his financial responsibility. He had promised to remove the beard and had fulfilled his contract. The Court, more profoundly appreciative of feminine charms, found itself unable to endorse this view of the case. Had the lady's health required such treatment, it would doubtless have been the doctor's duty to apply it at all risks. But the reason for which she consulted him was purely æsthetic, and in such a case he ought to have warned his client of the risks she ran before performing the operation. The judges, however, were unable to value Mademoiselle C.'s beauty at the price she put upon it, and assessed the disfigurement at the modest figure of 200l., instead of the 800l. claimed. The judgment has nevertheless excited much comment and some criticism in medical circles.

A RECENT ISSUE of a Church magazine, describing the confusion of parochial and public notices in the church porch, says: "Our shattered nerves have almost required a sniff of that wonderful restorer of affected nerves, Epsom salts, before we could find our balance again."

AUSTRALASIAN NEWS.

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of nine Societies of Chemists in Australia and New Zealand, and to many other Chemists in business there.

The Commonwealth.

FOOD AND DRUGS STANDARDS.—The report of Dr. Ashburton Thompson, Royal Commissioner on food and drug standards, has been printed and circulated to the respective Governments. It is a foolscap volume of over 350 pages, of which 280 are devoted to the evidence taken in the various States. In regard to the recommendations, the chief one is that a further Conference of Commonwealth and State officials should be called similar to that of 1910, with a view to settling doubtful points. After reviewing the evidence, Dr. Thompson states that the remarks and objections made by the witnesses for the most part touched on points of management, some of which appear to be fairly open to further consideration. As a whole, both Acts and sets of Regulations were approved, and were said to have been beneficial already to the course of trade, and when allowance has been made for the personal views of some of the witnesses, and for the misapprehensions of others, it will be seen that in reality no serious fault was pointed out, such as might lead to lengthy discussion. The Commissioner remarks on the similarity of the evidence tendered in each of the States, and the tendency of the report, as we read it, is to deprecate any of the modifications or amendments suggested by the witnesses on drug standards and on the question of starch in infants' food.

New South Wales.

PHARMACY BOARD.—At the meeting held at Sydney on December 10, 1912, the following chemists and druggists of Great Britain were registered under the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts: Oswald John Eden, "Redruth," Mona Road, Darling Point; Robert Henderson, "Halaware," Waratah Avenue, Randwick; William McInnes Nish, Pharmacy, Kiama; and Robert Tocher, "Ylhan," Old Canterbury Road, Summer Hill. A letter was received from the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand, stating that reciprocity had been finally agreed to. Mr. Loney reported the result of the Conference with Professor Anderson Stuart regarding the proposed school of pharmacy at the University. Regarding the proposed appointment of a director of pharmacy, stress was laid on the point that any man appointed should be a registered man and a practical pharmacist. It was decided to take steps to further the proposal, and the salary and fees attached to the position will, it is understood, be about 500*l.* per year. At the meeting on January 21 five New Zealand pharmacists were registered under the reciprocity agreement.

Western Australia.

PHARMACISTS LIBELLED.—The Pharmaceutical Society has sent to every member of the Legislative Assembly a spirited reply to the charge made by Mr. Heitmann that chemists make a practice of supplying abortifacients.

PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.—To the protest of the Chambers of Commerce against the regulations of the Board of Health, the Minister (Mr. W. C. Angwin) stated that if the formula of a medicine is deposited with the department instead of appearing on the bottle, it would be maintained strictly confidential, and was a perfectly reasonable alternative. In no case can the fact of depositing the formula be regarded as publishing the same. This will apply to medicines and also to foods. In the case of both patent medicines and infants' foods, the public should be able to know exactly what is being bought, or, where makers are unwilling to take the people into their confidence, the Public Health Department should know exactly what is there. The regulations come into force on May 1, and he said there is no intention of altering or postponing them to any later date as requested by the Chambers of Commerce of Sydney and Melbourne, and other bodies.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

(From "C. & D." Correspondents.)

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of the seven Societies and Associations of Chemists in British South Africa, as well as to other chemists in business there.

The Union.

NEW EXCISE BILL.—In the House of Assembly on February 10, the Minister of Justice moved the second reading of the Wines, Spirits, and Vinegar Bill, whose objects are to make uniform all over the Union the laws relating to the sale and manufacture of wines, spirits, vinegar, and beer. There is nothing directly pharmaceutical in the provisions, but in regard to vinegar it was stated that it will not prohibit the making of it, but if vinegar is made of glucose, cider, acetic acid, or anything else, this must be stated on the label. It only allows vinegar made from wine to be sold as vinegar; if it is made from any other thing, it must be stated on the label. The Bill was read a second time.

Orange Free State.

MR. ANDREW McMURRAY, the new President of the O.F.S. Pharmaceutical Society, is a native of Castle Douglas, Scotland, where he served his apprenticeship with Mr. Fred Walker. After some years' experience in various parts of Scotland, including some time with Messrs. Frazer & Green at Glasgow, Mr. McMurray accepted an appointment with Messrs. Petersen, Ltd., manufacturing chemists, of Cape Town, Bloemfontein, and Oudtshoorn. He was appointed manager of that firm's Bloemfontein branch in 1912. Mr. McMurray's modest and kindly nature has made him one of the most popular of Free State pharmacists.



MR. A. McMURRAY.

Cape Province.

PERSONAL.—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Rankin, of Potchefstroom, Transvaal, returned to their home from Cape Town, *via* Port Elizabeth, after spending a well-earned vacation in both the Eastern and Western Provinces.—Mr. W. Dawn Copley, of Messrs. Smart & Copley, of Bulawayo, was in the Cape Peninsula on vacation when the mail left.—It is understood that Messrs. H. K. Mulford Co., of Philadelphia, purpose exploiting the South African field with their products at no distant date.

HOLDSWORTH'S SAUCE.—At Cape Town on February 4, Frank Carlton Mathew, a director of Heynes, Mathew, Ltd., Cape Town, appeared before the magistrate, Mr. G. E. Symes, charged with contravening the Merchandise Marks Act of 1888 by unlawfully applying to certain goods—to wit, a "sauce"—a certain trade-mark, calculated to deceive. The purchase of the sauce sold under the name of Holdsworth & Co. in the open market was proved. Head-Constable Basset said he saw the defendant on January 20 last. The latter told him that his firm had manufactured and sold Holdsworth's sauce for the past thirteen years. As manager he took full responsibility. The case for the prosecution closed, and a further hearing adjourned till February 13.

Pharmaceutical Society of the O.F.S.

THE annual general meeting of the above Society was held in Vickers Buildings, Bloemfontein, on January 14, 1913, at 8.15 p.m. There were present Mr. J. Rawling (President) in the chair, Messrs. Reid, Mure, McMurray, Carter, Auld, and the Secretary (Mr. S. S. Hewitt), also Messrs. Sutherland, Bremner, Manning, and Hull (visitors).

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.—Arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting, Mr. Carter asked what had been done

in the matter of clearing goods through the Customs. The reply being in the negative, the Secretary suggested that the incoming committee take up this matter for investigation, which was agreed to.

PHARMACY CLASSES.—The Secretary read a letter from the Registrar of the Grey University College stating that it appeared impracticable to provide training for chemists at that college. The Secretary had arranged to see the Director of Education (Dr. Viljoen) again upon the matter, and it was decided to await further information.

DAISY FLY-KILLERS.—The Secretary stated that he had interviewed the Attorney-General (Mr. S. J. de Jager, K.C.) with reference to the Daisy Fly-killers, and had obtained an expression of opinion to the effect that they might be considered as coming under the exemptions in Section 57, Sub-section C, of the Pharmacy Ordinance No. 1 of 1904, and so could be sold as fly-papers without restriction.

DEFENCE ACT.—With reference to the position of chemists under the new Defence Act, the Secretary reported that Mr. C. L. Botha, M.L.A., had obtained and conveyed to him the following information, viz.:

(a) That the training period of the active citizen force applies only to persons under twenty-one years of age, and therefore does not affect registered chemists.

(b) That when the first reserve is called out for training it is reasonable to suppose that the Government will make the best use of the material at its disposal, and that chemists will be given suitable positions in ambulance work.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE.—A letter from the Eastern Districts Pharmaceutical Association was read and received for information, the Society not being prepared to take any action in the questions mooted.

ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary then read his annual report. This showed that during 1912 seven ordinary meetings and one council-meeting had been held by the Society. Generally speaking, the year had been of an uneventful character. Efforts which have been made to obtain publication of the draft Pharmacy Bill had met with no success. The anomalous conditions prevailing in pharmaceutical matters throughout South Africa urgently demand that the union of the provinces in this respect be consummated at an early date. While welcoming the proposals regarding reciprocity made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, this Society was unable to agree to all of them in the form in which they were drafted, and submitted proposals for emendation in its report. Reference was made to the abortive attempt of the Government to impose the metric system on chemists. The long-desired establishment of pharmacy classes has received some slight impetus from a meeting held on October 15, when Professor Rudge and Drs. Potts and Rindl attended to discuss the question on behalf of the Grey University College Council. It is hoped that the formation of a local branch of a South African P.A.T.A. will take definite form at an early date. Papers were given during the year by Mr. E. Whiteside, on "The Etiology of Dental Caries," and by the Secretary (Mr. S. S. Hewitt), on "Free State Laws Affecting Chemists," and both were very well received by a moderate attendance of members. Mr. C. L. Botha, the Parliamentary representative for Bloemfontein, attended the latter, and his legal knowledge was of great assistance in clearing up the points raised. Other matters which have received the attention of the Society during the year are the sale of tuberculin, acetic acid in bond, the Defence Bill, and minor matters chiefly of local importance. The membership of the Society has remained stationary, and members are asked to induce those chemists in the province who are not on the roll to join and strengthen the Society. The finances of the Society are in a satisfactory condition, owing to the care and energy of the Treasurer, whose statement shows a credit balance in hand of 9/ 6s.

THE PRESIDENT then addressed the meeting, and reviewed the events of the past year, especially referring to the lectures which had been given and the visits of Mr. C. L. Botha, M.L.A., and the Grey College Professors, and deplored the lack of attendances by members.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS for the ensuing year resulted as follows: *President*, Mr. A. McMurray; *Vice-President*, Mr. J. Rawling; *Secretary*, Mr. J. Reid; *Treasurer*, Mr. J. Mure; *Committee*, Messrs. Auld, Cartor, Hewitt, and Taylor. Mr. A. McMurray (President) then took the chair, and thanked the members for electing him as President.

P.A.T.A.—An interesting discussion and explanation of the working of the P.A.T.A. was then initiated by Mr. Hull (Parke, Davis & Co.), whose remarks were listened to with great attention.

NEW MEMBERS.—The following were elected members of the Society: Messrs. Bremner, Hull, Manning, and Sutherland.

The meeting then concluded.

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

Seven Years to Pay.—Before Assistant-Judge Jackson, in the Lord Mayor's Court, last week, Mr. H. C. T. Gardner, analytical chemist, Miller Hospital, Greenwich, summoned Mr. Henry Albert Amies, wholesale tea-blender, 6 Harp Lane, E.C., in respect to the non-payment of 28*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, for which judgment had already been given (as reported in the *C. & D.*, February 1). The defendant, who was stated to have under 2*l.* a week, offered payment of 5*s.* a month, and this was accepted.

"Veterinary Infirmary."—At Glastonbury on February 25, Wm. Hedley Fairley, Magdalene Street, Glastonbury, was summoned by Mr. Geo. Oran Webb, Glastonbury, on behalf of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, for using the description "Prepared by W. Hedley Fairley, Veterinary Infirmary, Glastonbury," on a bottle of colic mixture and a drench. The defence admitted the facts, but disputed the inference of the prosecution that this was an infringement of Section 17 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act. The Bench imposed a nominal fine of 1*l.*, with 3*s.* costs. Notice of appeal was given on behalf of the defendant.

Traveller's Accessories.—In the City of London Court on February 27, Oppenheimer, Son & Co., Ltd., sued Mr. Robert T. Brammell, commercial traveller, for 1*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* The claim was for clinical thermometers, patent foods for infants; and a leather bag supplied to the defendant, who was a traveller to the plaintiffs for over two years. The defendant wrote to the Judge from Edinburgh, and said that some of the goods for which he was now sued were sent to him in the interests of the plaintiffs in trying to get business. It was usual in the trade, he said, to allow travellers reasonable latitude in such matters, and that in those cases the goods were supplied to the travellers at very much lower rates than the prices quoted to customers. The plaintiffs, he declared, had charged him the same price as he would ask from a customer to whom he was selling the goods. He also used a bag of his own in the plaintiffs' service, and had returned to them a new one in its place. The plaintiffs' representative said the goods sued for had been supplied to the defendant at cost price, and not at customers' prices. Judge Lumley Smith asked if the plaintiffs were in the habit of allowing people in their service to have goods at more favourable terms than they would charge to their customers. The plaintiffs' representative said the claim was made up of cost prices only. The judge said if the plaintiffs could make the defendant some allowance he would be glad, as the defendant had been in their service for two years. The defendant's own bag would probably be worn out in two years. The plaintiffs' representative said that was not so, as it was a leather bag. They gave the defendant no authority to use one of his own bags. Judge Lumley Smith asked if the samples of clinical thermometers and dental syringes and things of that sort which the defendant carried for the plaintiffs would not get worn out and dirty. The plaintiffs' representative said they would not. They might get broken, and then they would take them back. Judgment was given for the plaintiffs for 1*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, and costs.

High Court Cases.

Unless when otherwise stated these cases have been heard in the High Court of Justice London.

THE SOAP PATENT ACTION.

In the Chancery Division this week Mr. Justice Neville continued the hearing of the action brought by Joseph Crosfield & Sons, Ltd., Warrington, against the Techno-Chemical Laboratories, Ltd., and Nils Testrup, of London, the real plaintiffs, however, being Brunner, Mond & Co., and the defendants Lever Bros., Ltd. (See *C. & D.*, March 1, index folio 328.)

Sir James Dewar and Dr. F. W. Passmore gave evidence in support of plaintiffs' case.

The case for the defence was opened by Mr. Astbury, K.C., and Mr. H. Ballantyne, F.I.C., commenced the evidence for the defence, and was followed by Mr. Otto Hehner on Thursday.

OLIVE OIL CONTRACT.

In the King's Bench Commercial Court on February 28, Mr. Justice Scrutton had before him an action brought by F. Boehm, Ltd., against Nardello & Agazar, Ltd., the plaintiffs claiming damages for alleged breach of contract, with reference to the purchase by them from the defendants of a quantity of Leucade olive oil. Mr. H. Sankey,

K.C., and Mr. J. D. Crawford were for the plaintiffs, and Mr. A. M. Latter for the defendants.

The contract sued upon (said Mr. Sankey) was made partly by word of mouth and partly by correspondence. It appeared that on July 12 F. Boehm, Ltd., agreed to buy from 40 to 50 tons of Leucade olive oil at 44*l.* per ton of 1,045 kilos., less $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. c.i.f. London or Liverpool. It was stipulated that the acidity in the oil was not to exceed 3 per cent., and the goods were to be delivered in sound American barrels, the shipments to be in August last. Plaintiffs' case was that Nardello & Agazar, Ltd., had failed to deliver the oil, and had repudiated the contract. The defendants had said there was no memorandum in writing of the alleged contract signed by them or on their behalf, and they further contended that the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act had not been complied with. They also maintained that, if any contract was negotiated by them in regard to the oil, it was negotiated by them as agents for a disclosed principal—viz., M. Christo S. Zavizziano—and that the defendants had no personal liability. The question for his Lordship to decide was whether there was any definite contract, and if the evidence on that point satisfied him.

Giving evidence, Mr. Kunzer, of the plaintiff company, said the company had done business with the defendants for nine months in the purchase of oil. The oil in question in this case came from the Ionian Islands. In July the price rose because it became known that the crop would be disappointing. The market in this class of oil was rather limited. It was used largely for pharmaceutical purposes. The price went up to 56*l.* and 57*l.* a ton, and the 3-per-cent. acid oil rose to as much as 65*l.*

M. Zavizziano related the effect of an interview he had with a Mr. Weiss on behalf of the plaintiffs at Lausanne in regard to the contract.

On behalf of the defendants, Mr. Latter submitted that there was nothing in writing which could be regarded as evidence of the contract sued upon. There was a letter of June 28, to which Mr. Sankey had referred, but this, said counsel, was merely a request for a contract, which had not been concluded. He referred to authorities which, he said, held that a contract must contain all the terms upon which the agreement was founded, and there was no document in this case which fulfilled those conditions.

No evidence was tendered for the defendants, and, giving judgment, his Lordship said he had no doubt that Weiss had authority to bind the defendants. He held that there was an agreement and a memorandum sufficient to satisfy the Sale of Goods Act. Judgment was entered in favour of the plaintiffs for 656*l.*, and costs.

A conditional stay of execution was granted with a view to the possibility of defendants taking the case to the Court of Appeal.

SURNAMES AS TRADE-MARKS.

The Court of Appeal, consisting of Lords Justices Farwell, Buckley, and Hamilton, on Monday, March 3, delivered a considered judgment upon the appeal of R. J. Lea, Ltd., wholesale tobacconists, Manchester, from the refusal of Mr. Justice Joyce to grant their application for registration of the word "Boardman's" as a trade-mark in respect of manufactured tobacco under the Act of 1905. The appellant company are the successors in business of Mr. Robert John Lea, who prior to 1868 had supplied a licensed victualler named Boardman with a tobacco mixture which became known as "Boardman's Mixture." In 1868 Mr. R. J. Lea, with the consent of Boardman, sold, and had since continuously sold, the mixture under labels bearing the name "Boardman's Smoking Mixture." When in November 1910 the appellant company applied to register the word "Boardman's" the Board of Trade referred the application to the Court, and the matter came before Mr. Justice Joyce, who held that the mere surname of an individual, although it might be "adapted to distinguish" the goods of all the persons taken collectively who bore that surname from the goods of other persons bearing a different surname, was not adapted to distinguish the goods of a particular applicant, even though his surname was an uncommon one from those of other persons within the meaning of that expression in the Trade-marks Act (1905), and ought not therefore to be

registered. Hence the present appeal of the company. The judgment was reported in the *C. & D.*, 1912, I, index folio 287.

Lord Justice Farwell, in the course of his judgment, said that he had already expressed his opinion on the construction of the Act in previous cases—viz., in the Perfection Soap case and in the W. & G. case—and he did not propose to repeat it now. It was plain to his mind from the phraseology of section 9 of the Trade-marks Act, 1905, that the name of a company, individual, or firm by itself is not, *prima facie* and without more, distinctive; nor is a geographical name or surname; and if there was nothing more he thought it would be wrong for the Board of Trade or the Court to allow such to be registered. By Section 9, subsections 1 and 2, the Act limits the power of obtaining registration of such words to the distinctiveness arising out of the special or particular manner of representation or the peculiarity of signature, so that any number of individuals called "John Smith" might obtain protection for their signature as written by them, but not for the name of "John Smith." Further, it is plain that the surname alone does not come within section 9, subsection 1 (See *C. & D. Diary*, 1913, p. 444), unless it be the name of a firm—for example, "Birchams"; the name or signature of an individual means that which individualises him; he may belong to the great family of Smith, but he is identified as an individual by his own phenomenon, as distinguished from his family name, he is John Smith, a member of the Smith family. Further, "surname" is excluded from subsection 4, and is therefore not *prima facie* adapted to distinguish; the argument that the very object of a surname is to distinguish is specious but deceptive; Smith is doubtless well adapted to distinguish its bearers from Brown, but not from all or any of the members of the family of Smith. His Lordship then referred to the provision of the section as to user, viz.:

"In determining whether a trade-mark is so adapted, the tribunal may, in the case of a trade-mark in actual use, take into consideration the extent to which such user has rendered such trade-mark in fact distinctive for the goods with respect to which it is registered or proposed to be registered."

For this, he continued, the Act requires two things to be proved—(1) that the trade-mark has been and is in actual use, and (2) that such user has been sufficient to render it in fact distinctive. Actual use may be enough, although slight in extent, to support an action for passing off against a wrong-doer who intentionally tries to intercept the benefit of the plaintiff's reputation and credit; but it is quite another thing to say that the use is enough to have displaced the ordinary meaning of any family name and to have turned such name *quoad* tobacco or any other article into meaning primarily not a man or a family, but an article. Applying these considerations to this particular case, he thought upon the evidence that it was far from obvious that the word "Boardman's" was adapted to distinguish the goods of R. J. Lea, Ltd., from those of other traders, and the evidence was insufficient to show that the user had rendered the word distinctive of the goods by identifying them with the goods of R. J. Lea, Ltd. He therefore came to the conclusion that the judgment of Mr. Justice Joyce was right, and that the appeal should be dismissed, with costs.

Lord Justice Buckley said he thought the word which the appellants sought to register was not a surname. The word sought to be registered was "Boardman's," which word expressed something which, as a matter of fact, related to Boardman. The point for the Court to determine was whether, having regard to the provisions of subsection 5 of Section 9 of the Act, the word "Boardman's" was adapted to distinguish the goods of the appellants from those of other persons. He was of opinion that the evidence was not sufficient for the Court to say that the word "Boardman's" was adapted to distinguish the goods of the company from the goods of other dealers in tobacco. He therefore was not prepared to differ from the decision of Mr. Justice Joyce upon the question of fact, but he thought that in the circumstances the appeal should be dismissed, without costs.

Lord Justice Hamilton, however, delivered a judgment agreeing with that of Lord Justice Farwell, and the appeal was accordingly dismissed, with costs.

ACTION FOR ALLEGED LIBEL.

In the King's Bench Division, before Mr. Justice Pickford and a special jury, on March 5, an action was brought by Mr. Ralph William Angell, living at Bognor, against Felton & Crepin, import and export merchants, Cooper's Row, London, E.C., claiming damages for alleged slander and libel. The defendants pleaded justification and privilege. For the plaintiff Mr. Timothy Healy, K.C., and Mr. Cannot appeared, and the defendants were represented by Mr. L. Sanderson, K.C., Mr. McCardie, and Mr. Rowlands.

Mr. Cannot, in stating the issues to the jury, said the plaintiff alleged that the defendants on March 6 and March 24, 1911, by letters published concerning him in the way of his business as an exporter and importer of Japanese goods certain libellous statements, a letter being sent to a firm called J. Osawa & Co., Kobe, Japan. The plaintiff also complained that the statements were published to the defendants' staff in London. The alleged slander (plaintiff said) was uttered by the defendants to a lady clerk. There were denials by the defendants, and it was said that the words complained of were privileged.

Mr. Healy, in the course of his remarks, stated that the plaintiff in 1909 entered into an arrangement with the defendants to take charge of a Far Eastern department. This engagement terminated some time later, and the parting was not on good terms. Among the clients in Japan was a firm called Messrs. Hirano, of Tokio, who had had sent to them a consignment of printing-ink. A draft for 31*l.* odd in favour of the defendants was eventually sent, addressed to the plaintiff (as he used to have letters addressed to him), and out of this the trouble had arisen. The defendants (alleged Mr. Healy) marked the letter "Not known," and sent it on its travels again, either to the Dead Letter Office or "to the end of the world in Japan." The defendants, at that time, knew that the draft of Messrs. Hirano might be expected, and instead of referring it to the plaintiff in London, had practically sent it back to Japan. Later they wrote to Osawa & Co. (said counsel) a scandalous letter that was intended to damage the plaintiff in the eyes of the Japanese merchants. This letter ran:

"We have just heard this morning that Mr. Angell, whom we had to dismiss and who has now started business on his own account . . . has written to . . . say that after we dismissed him there was nobody in the firm who understood anything about the Japanese market, and that we shall cease to deal with the export business in Japan. This is absolutely without foundation, and we may say that we have had twenty years' experience in the export trade . . . but Mr. Angell has not this experience. We also heard by this morning's post that the firm of Hirano & Co., Tokio, to whom we sent a small consignment of printing-ink in the early part of 1909, has handed over to Mr. Angell without our consent or knowledge the proceeds of this consignment. After we dismissed Mr. Angell we applied to the British Consul, who has advised us of this, and he says he cannot take immediate action. Can you advise us the best way we can act to get this money refunded? . . ."

Counsel was proceeding to read a further sentence, beginning, "Mr. Angell," when Mr. Sanderson objected, and said that this sentence was never in fact sent to Japan.

Mr. Healy said that there was another letter in which the defendants wrote: "Mr. Angell had no right to have this money . . ."

The plaintiff gave evidence to bear out Mr. Healy's statement, and said in the course of his testimony that the firm of Osawa were one of his principal export customers. Cross-examined by Mr. Sanderson, he admitted that he was dismissed by the defendants "if counsel liked to put it that way."

Were you not dismissed for dishonesty?—I do not admit that. I was not, to the best of my recollection.

The plaintiff was cross-examined on Thursday, after which Mr. Sanderson addressed the jury for the defence, contending that plaintiff had failed to establish any case. Plain-

tiff became the defendant's manager, promised to give them his time, etc., and, while professing to serve them as manager, started a business on his own account. Counsel went into details of the alleged improper business conduct of the plaintiff, and argued that he could not now be heard to make any complaint himself. As to the transaction with Hirano, the defendants, not getting satisfaction for the goods and not getting them returned, wrote to the British Consul, who replied that he had been informed by Hirano that they had remitted the amount "to your Mr. Angell," with whom they had had two transactions and an unsettled claim. Counsel went on to say that in regard to a sentence in a letter (read by Mr. Healy), in which the words occurred—"Mr. Angell had no right to take this money, it was nothing more or less than a theft" . . . this sentence was cut out and was never sent to Japan, and therefore the only person in the world to whom publication was made was the defendants' lady typist. He submitted the letters were proper in every way. The defendants admitted the publication to the lady typist, and contended that a farthing damages would be adequate to award to the plaintiff.

Mr. Crepin and Mr. Felton gave evidence in support of the defence, and the lady typist deposed that the sentence referred to was cut off, and she had never mentioned the purport of it to anybody.

At the close of the evidence Mr. Justice Pickford ruled that there was no evidence of the publication of the letter of March 6 in Japan.

The jury found that the words complained of in the letter of March 24 were not defamatory. Further, they found there was publication of the letter to the defendants' typist, and they assessed the damage at one farthing.

Mr. Sanderson said the defendants had paid 5*l.* into Court with regard to this, and he asked for judgment therefore for defendants, with costs.

His Lordship entered judgment accordingly for defendants.

LIMITED COMPANIES.

New Companies Registered.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907, and R.O., Registered Office.

RESEARCH LABORATORY, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, dyers, electricians, etc. J. Abernethy is the first secretary. R.O., 20 Bucklersbury, London, E.C.

ARTHUR BEST, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 100*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, dyers, electricians, etc. The subscribers and first directors are A. Best, drug-merchant, and R. Stopforth, chemist. R.O., 19 Walton Road, Liverpool.

RUTTERS, CASH CHEMISTS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, opticians, extractors of teeth, etc. The first directors are A. Rutter, drug-store proprietor, and E. Jones, chemist. R.O., 64 Greenwood Road, Hackney, London, N.E.

COLES & HUTT, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, opticians, photographers, etc. The first directors are C. A. Coles, S. G. Hutt, and E. W. B. Hutt. Remuneration of managing directors, 160*l.* each per annum, to be increased according to profits. R.O., 85 St. Thomas Street, Weymouth.

C. D. BLAKEMAN, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a chemist, druggist, and photographic dealer carried on at Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent, by Chas. D. Blakeman. The subscribers are C. D. Blakeman, Mrs. J. A. Blakeman, and W. Clowes, chemist and druggist, Birkenhead. The first directors are Mr. and Mrs. Blakeman.

MURRAY'S PHARMACIES, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 2,500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a chemist and druggist carried on by M. E. Murray at 221 Woodhouse Lane, 39 Hillside Road, 93 Marsh Lane, and 9 Upper Accommodation Road, Leeds. The first directors are M. E. Murray, Leeds, pharmacist; E. F. Hart, Leeds, solicitor; and T. Moore, contractor. R.O., 221 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds.

O. WALLIS & CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of wholesale manufacturing chemists carried on by O. Wallis as "O. Wallis & Co." at 189 Wardour Street, W.C., and to adopt agreements with Hopkins & Williams, Ltd., and O. Wallis. The first directors are A. G. Howard, D. Lloyd Howard, E. White, and O. Wallis. R.O., 16 Cross Street, Hatton Garden, London, E.C.

Company News.

CASTLE DRUG CO., LTD.—Among the creditors of this Dudley company, which is in voluntary liquidation, are Bovril, Ltd., 14 $\frac{1}{2}$; Francis Williams Oil Co., Ltd., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$; Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., 16 $\frac{1}{2}$; and the Veno Drug Co., Ltd., 10 $\frac{1}{2}$. The total liabilities of the company are 562 $\frac{1}{2}$, of which 226 $\frac{1}{2}$ is unsecured, and the net assets are 185 $\frac{1}{2}$.

SOUTHALL BROS. & BARCLAY, LTD.—Sir Thomas Barclay (chairman) presided over the annual meeting of shareholders of this company, held in Birmingham on March 5. In moving the adoption of the report (details of which were given in the *C. & D.*, March 1), Sir Thomas said that during 1912 the prices of drugs had on the whole ruled higher. There was much speculation in opium and otto of rose before the outbreak of the Turko-Balkan War. Large stocks of otto were accumulated in London and Paris, so that there was little alteration in the price. In regard to opium, it was rather singular that after the war began the price actually receded. This was due to the reduction in the rate of exchange between Turkey and other European countries, and to the nervousness of holders in Constantinople and elsewhere, who, frightened at the continued success of the Allies, became anxious to turn their stocks into money. Oil of lemon had, owing to the failure of the crops, advanced considerably in price, and the present quotation is a record. Sir Thomas also referred to the position of other staples, especially cod-liver oil, then touched upon the National Insurance Act. Respecting Medical Benefit, he said that it has brought about a complete revolution in the relations of the pharmacist to the medical profession and the public by the separation of prescribing from dispensing. He recalled the fact that when the International Congress of Pharmacy was held in London in 1881 he read a paper on "The Relations of Pharmacists to the Medical Profession and the Public," in the course of which he said that in most of the States of Continental Europe the respective functions of the pharmacist and the medical practitioner were separated, and that where the state of pharmacy and the position as well as the qualification of pharmacists were the highest, the more cordial were the relations between them and the medical profession, and, what was most important, the better the interests of the public were provided for. Although it may take a considerable time, he had no doubt that similar results will follow in this country. "The working of the Insurance Act will also," he continued, "prove beneficial in another respect; for it is well known that several enterprising American, German, and British houses have, by their skill in advertising, etc., induced the members of the profession to prescribe their nostras. Now that medical practitioners on the panel are writing their prescriptions, it is to be hoped it will have the effect of largely preventing these proprietary preparations from being prescribed, and that good honest medicines will be ordered in their stead." Sir Thomas added that the Act is working well. "For one thing, the profession has the whole range of a well-equipped pharmacy to prescribe from, and professional men are not burdened at the end of a heavy day's work by having to do their own dispensing; while the chemists, many of whom rarely saw a prescription, are now happily engaged in doing the work for which they had qualified themselves by the State examinations." The report was adopted, and the Chairman was re-elected a director.

Charges or Mortgages.

Under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, Section 93, the mortgages or charges therein specified are (except in Scotland) void against the liquidator and any creditor of the company unless filed with the Registrar in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Act. Full statutory particulars of the following have been filed at Somerset House, London, W.C.

Berenger Frères, Ltd.—Particulars of 2,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ debentures, created January 11, and now issued. Property charged: The company's property, present and future, including uncalled capital.

Price's Co., Ltd.—Particulars of 150,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ debentures, created December 20, 1912, and now issued. Property charged: The company's undertaking and property, present and future, including uncalled capital. No trustees.

William Ransom & Son, Ltd.—Particulars of 5,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ debentures, created January 1, 1913, and charged on the company's undertaking and property, present and future, including uncalled capital.

Wilkinson & Simpson, Ltd.—Mortgage dated January 23, 1913, to secure 7,797 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18s. 4d., charged on 24, 30, 32, and 34 Newgate Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Holders: Grainger Permanent Building Society, 16 Market Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY**OF GREAT BRITAIN.****Council-meeting.**

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held at 16 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., on March 5. The President referred to the accident in the hunting-field to Mr. Richard Winfrey, M.P., and said that the Divisional Secretary is keeping the office informed of Mr. Winfrey's progress, which is "as well as can be expected." Mention was also made of the death of Mr. Cor. Willson, Grimsby, on which account the dinner of the local Association, of which he was President, has been postponed. From the Benevolent Fund grants were made amounting to 120 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mr. Neathercoat reported on the organisation scheme. The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Society have furnished reasons why they cannot enter into reciprocal relations with the British Society. The President announced that the question is being considered of giving evidence before the Committee appointed by the National Health Commissioners to consider the working of Section 15 (5) (iii) of the National Insurance Act. A draft scheme is also being considered regarding the promotion of a Bill in Parliament to provide a qualification of dispensing assistant to pharmacists.

THE Councillors present were: Mr. C. B. Allen (President), Mr. E. White (Vice-President), Mr. W. H. Gibson (Treasurer), and Messrs. F. E. Bilson, A. S. Campkin, F. J. Gibson, R. L. Gifford, D. Gilmour, A. Hagon, J. F. Harrington, J. Harrison, E. T. Neathercoat, G. T. W. Newsholme, F. A. Rogers, P. F. Rowsell, F. P. Sargeant, C. Symes, and T. A. White.

PERSONAL MATTERS.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the PRESIDENT said he regretted to state that Mr. Young was absent through illness. Mr. Cuff was also fulfilling an important engagement on the Kent Insurance Committee, and Mr. Currie was detained in Glasgow by business.

Mention was also made of the accident in the hunting-field of Mr. Richard Winfrey, M.P. The President said that the Divisional Secretary for Peterborough, who is keeping the office informed, has reported that Mr. Winfrey is progressing as favourably as can be expected, but that he will probably not be able to resume his duties for some weeks.

The annual dinner of the Grimsby Chemists' Association, said the President, has been postponed owing to the death of Mr. Cor. Willson, the President of the Grimsby Association. Mr. Willson was a man of genial and humorous type, and very pleasant company. He was shipping agent in Grimsby for several companies.

ELECTIONS AND RESTORATIONS

There were next elected thirty-six members and thirty-two student-associates. Eighteen persons were restored to their former positions in the Society, and eight names restored to the Register of Chemists and Druggists.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THE TREASURER then presented the report of the Finance Committee. The receipts of the General Fund amounted to 3,701 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12s. 7d., made up as follows: Penalties and costs, 108 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15s. 11d.; subscriptions, 2,337 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7s.; "Journal" and publications, 1,086 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8s. 8d.; registration fees, 153 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6s.; school fees, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6s.; restoration fees, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9s.; making a balance of 2,196 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19s. 5d. after making the payments authorised by the Council at the February meeting. The following amounts were recommended for payment: "Journal" and publications, 782 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9s. 8d.; stationery, etc., 370 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1s. 11d.; current expenses, 300 $\frac{1}{2}$; salaries, etc., 974 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9s.; law charges, 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11s. 6d.; school and examinations, 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8s. 1d.; library, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8s. 4d.—a total of 2,588 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13s. 3d. The balance on the current account of the Benevolent Fund was shown as 971 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0s. 8d. (recommended for payment 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15s.), and on the donation account 97 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0s. 1d. (after placing 500 $\frac{1}{2}$ on deposit with the London County and Westminster Bank). The Orphan Fund showed a balance of 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11s. 2d.

The TREASURER said that the balance on the General Fund is 708*l.* more than at the corresponding period last year, and that the subscriptions to the Benevolent Fund are 46*l.* more. Special contributions to the last-named Fund have been received from the West Ham Association of Pharmacists (5*l.*) and the Peterborough Pharmacists' Association (2*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*).

The PRESIDENT referred to the fact that the Finance Committee, whose report was presented, consisted of the Treasurer and Mr. Rogers, the explanation being that other members of the committee were engaged elsewhere in the building.

The report was adopted.

Special resolutions were passed authorising the Treasurer to pay the second moieties of their scholarships to the Redwood scholar and the Jacob Bell scholars.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The report of the Benevolent Fund Committee was next considered *in camera*, after which

Mr. F. J. GIBSON, the Chairman, said that 120*l.* had been granted to eight applicants.

The report was adopted.

A further resolution dealt with a payment of 30*l.* to be made to the London Orphan Asylum on behalf of an orphan in charge of the Society.

L., M., S., AND H. COMMITTEE.

The report of the Library, Museum, School, and House Committee was then presented by the Vice-President. This referred to the approval of accounts for 7*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* for house repairs, and 2*l.* 16*s.* for electrical work. Permission was given to the Essex County Association of Pharmacists and the Public Pharmacists' and Dispensers' Association to hold meetings in the Society's house on February 20 and March 26 respectively. An application from the Dean of the School to spend 7*l.* on two lantern stands and a lantern body was approved of.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the meeting of the committee was occupied chiefly with routine work. The expenditure on the optical lantern was necessitated by the increased use of the instrument for demonstration purposes in the school lectures.

The report was adopted.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE.

Mr. E. T. NEATHERCOAT presented the report of this committee, which was dated February 5, and dealt with meetings held from January 21 to that date. He referred approvingly to the willingness shown by the Councillors to fulfil engagements at various gatherings throughout the country, and made special reference to meetings held at Birmingham and Southampton. The last-mentioned town has always been a difficult one to organise, but that has been overcome. It was also suggested in the report that the time of the meeting of the committee should be in future 2.30 P.M. on the Tuesday before the Council meetings.

Mr. BILSON said the Southampton meeting was an exceedingly good one. It was gratifying to the Local Association to have been able successfully to carry out the meeting. A feature of the meeting was the loyalty shown to the Society, which is surprising when one considers the past.

Mr. F. J. GIBSON said that the Birmingham meeting passed off successfully, notwithstanding the difficulties occasioned by a dense fog on the day.

The PRESIDENT said the fog was very dense in London, and he wondered how Mr. Neathercoat and Mr. Woolcock managed to reach Birmingham at all.

Mr. SARGEANT suggested that the time of the committee meeting might be earlier in the day. He saw no reason why two committees should not sit at the same time.

The PRESIDENT replied that in June, when the committees are appointed, this matter could be adjusted, and arrangements made for the members to be on only one committee meeting at the same time.

Mr. GIFFORD referred to the Preston meeting of January 30, and of the good that had been done by interviews which Mr. Woolcock had with the Clerks of the Lancashire, the Blackburn, and the Burnley Insurance

Committees. These interviews have contributed greatly to the smooth working of chemists' dispensing arrangements.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the success of the Southampton meeting was due largely to Mr. Bates, the President of the local Association, who made the arrangements for entertaining visitors from a distance.

The PRESIDENT referred in appreciative terms to the dinner of the West Ham Association of Pharmacists.

The report was adopted.

DIVISIONAL SECRETARY.

The PRESIDENT said he was pleased to be able to announce that the City of Norwich, which has been unrepresented for a number of years—pharmaceutically dead, in fact—has nominated a divisional secretary. He had pleasure in proposing that Mr. A. E. King be appointed Divisional Secretary.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

REPORTS.

The Library Committee was entrusted with the duty of drawing up the annual report.

The REGISTRAR reported that he had during the month registered fifty-six apprentices or students.

The VICE-PRESIDENT, referring to a report of the Examiners' Sub-Committee which had been circulated among the Councillors, said he desired the permission of the Council to submit it to the Board of Examiners in Scotland for it to consider how far previous recommendations of the Scotch Board will be influenced by the report. The report is a private one, he added, and is not intended to be published.

The Council agreed to the proposal.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHARMACY.

A communication from the Privy Council was received regarding the International Congress of Pharmacy at The Hague in September next, intimating the possibility of official recognition by the Foreign Office to any delegate appointed to represent the Pharmaceutical Society.

The PRESIDENT said that a discussion on trade and manufacturers' marks was mentioned as being one of international importance, upon which it was desired to have the views of delegates from Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. He proposed that Mr. E. White be appointed delegate.

The VICE-PRESIDENT explained that the action of the Government is due probably to a hint which was given that in 1910 this country was placed at a disadvantage at the International Congress of Pharmacy in Brussels. The different status was due to the fact that the pharmacy laws in other countries are administered by State departments.

The appointment was approved of.

NEW ZEALAND PHARMACY ACT.

The Colonial Office forwarded for the information of the Council a copy of an Act to amend the Pharmacy Act (1908) of New Zealand. The Amending Act provides *inter alia* for the regulation of the use of the word "pharmacy," the practice of pharmacy by corporate bodies, and for the exemption of chemists from service on juries.

The PRESIDENT said that in New Zealand they have evidently felt the pinch of these abuses as occurred here.

Mr. SARGEANT said note should be taken of the wording of the section regulating the use of the word "pharmacy." This might perhaps be usefully adopted in this country.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: It would be better to send the communication to the Law Committee.

The PRESIDENT: I may say in answer to Mr. Sargeant that the wording he refers to would not be applicable to the conditions as they exist here.

A MAURITIUS ORDINANCE.

The SECRETARY said that the Colonial Office had also sent a copy of a Pharmacy Ordinance for Mauritius, about which the opinion of the Council was asked. It was arranged that the President should attend to this matter.

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

The University of London conveyed resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Senate on February 19, conferring the

title of University Professors on Dr. A. W. Crossley and Mr. H. G. Greenish.

The PRESIDENT said it was pleasing to find their professors attaining in this way academic rank. It would be good for the school.

THE SALE OF DIACHYLON.

The Nottingham and Notts Pharmacists' Association directed the attention of the Council to the increasing sale of diachylon in the Midland Counties, and suggesting the issue of a general warning to pharmacists. A copy was enclosed of a notice to chemists which that Association has sent out.

The PRESIDENT said this would be referred to the Parliamentary and General Purposes Committee for consideration. He added that this is not a new subject to the Council. Some time ago it was suggested to the Privy Council that diachylon should be placed in Part I. of the Model Poison Schedule which was submitted to the Privy Council. The President added that in view of the serious increase in the use of diachylon it behoves every chemist to make careful inquiry before selling the plaster in the lump.

RECIPROCITY WITH NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Colonial Office forwarded a reply which has been received from the Government of Newfoundland regarding the refusal of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Society to enter into a reciprocal exchange of certificates to practise pharmacy. It was explained that the proposed basis was inapplicable to a newly formed society such as that of Newfoundland, where a high standard of knowledge was not yet attainable. It is out of the question for some years to come, and it would be futile to enter into an agreement at the present time.

The PRESIDENT said the Council appreciated very much the explanation made so courteously.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Communications from various Associations were sent to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance to be dealt with.

The PRESIDENT here stated that the Parliamentary and General Purposes Committee met on the previous evening, and dealt with a number of urgent and important matters which were not ripe for publication at the present time. He desired, however, to call the attention of the Council to the committee appointed by the National Health Commissioners to inquire into the alleged insufficient service under Section 15 (5) (iii) of the National Insurance Act. Action has already been taken to deal with any case presented to the committee, and, he added, the interests of those practising pharmacy will be well looked after. In regard also to the provision of assistant dispensers under the National Insurance Act about which a pledge was given by the Council while the Act was passing through the House of Commons, he stated that at the February meeting of the Council a draft scheme was under consideration, and also the steps to be taken to promote a Bill in Parliament for power to qualify assistant dispensers to pharmacists.

THE POISON SCHEDULE.

After discussion the following resolution was passed:

That by virtue, and in exercise of the powers vested in the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain by Section 2 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as modified by Section 1 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, the said Council does hereby resolve and declare as follows:

(a) That "Sulphonal" be removed from Part II. of the Schedule to the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, and that "Sulphonal" and its homologues, whether described as trional, tetronal, or by any other trade name, mark, or designation," be substituted therefor.

(b) That diethyl barbituric acid and other alkyl, aryl, or metallic derivatives of barbituric acid, whether described as veronal, propional, medinal, or by any other trade name, mark, or designation; and all poisonous urethanes and ureides ought to be deemed poisons within the meaning of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as amended by the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, and ought to be deemed poisons in the second part of the "Schedule of Poisons" to that Act.

This concluded the meeting.

Society of Public Analysts.

A MEETING was held at the Chemical Society's rooms at Burlington House on Wednesday, March 5, at 8 P.M. The chair was occupied by the President. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the Chairman called for the first paper of the evening, on

"THE BACTERIAL TESTING OF DISINFECTANTS,"

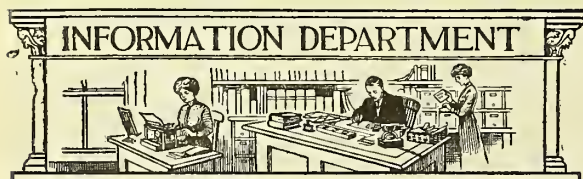
by Messrs. C. T. Kingzett, F.I.C., F.C.S., and C. Woodcock, F.I.C., F.C.S., of the Sanitas Co., Ltd. The authors severely criticised the Rideal-Walker test as a means of standardising disinfectants. From their experiments they conclude that while the test is serviceable for comparing the powers of coal-tar disinfectants, it is useless for determining the absolute power of the various preparations used for sanitary use. All their experiments have been carried out by the same experimenters and under identical conditions, hence they feel justified in putting particular weight on the results since the consensus of opinion points to the necessity of manipulative experience in getting reliable and concordant results. From the authors' results it appears that the value of the coefficients of various bodies, as determined by the Rideal-Walker test, do not agree with the known germicidal powers of these bodies. Thus chromic acid has a lower coefficient than benzoic acid, while prussic acid is lower than either. Next, mercuric chloride appears to be less powerful than potassium permanganate, and three of the most lethal bodies known to science—prussic acid, nicotine, and strychnine—appear valueless for the purpose of bacterial destruction. One of the most striking points brought out is the apparent uselessness of hydrogen peroxide when judged by the Rideal-Walker test, since it possesses a coefficient of only 0.04. In the case of benzoic acid, the authors state that two experiments gave results of 0 and 3.8. They state that it is practically impossible to obtain a simple bacterial test which can be used for all disinfectants, owing to the different behaviour of different bodies on the same bacteria. To properly evaluate the power of a disinfectant it is necessary to take into consideration its specific action and test it accordingly. Further, if the time occupied in the test be varied, the germicidal power of a preparation varies. Thus formaldehyde, when heated in the ordinary way, has a coefficient of 0.38, while if it be allowed to act for 1½ hour its destructive power becomes greater than that of phenol. The value of the paper lies in the tabulation of the coefficients of some seventy-seven compounds, which coefficients have been determined under the very best conditions. Their final conclusion is that while the Rideal-Walker test should be retained for examining coal-tar disinfectants, the only real gauge of utility of the various disinfectants available for public and sanitary employment is the extent to which, as shown by experience, they may be satisfactorily employed for the particular purposes for which they are advocated.

The discussion on the paper led to some interesting statements with regard to suitability of the specific bacteria used in the test. The opinion, however, of those who have worked most on the subject was that the one used in the Rideal-Walker test, *Bacillus typhosus*, is on the whole the most suitable. Dr. Rideal, in the course of some remarks, stated that in this country we are far in advance of the knowledge possessed by other countries on this subject. He also said that in America a large number of towns depend for their pure-water supply on the use of bleaching-powder, this chemical being more extensively used than any other.

One of the other papers read was by Messrs. F. W. Richardson and W. K. Walton, on a quick and improved method for the estimation of

BORIC ACID IN MILK AND CREAM.

The method outlined consists in coagulating the fat and casein in the milk by the addition of a 5-per-cent. solution of copper sulphate. After the addition the mixture is stirred, heated to boiling, and filtered. The boric acid is estimated in the filtrate by titration with caustic-soda solution after the addition of glycerin.



Postal Address:

C. & D. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "CHEMICUS CANNON LONDON" (two words).

Telephone Number: BANK 852 (two lines).

INFORMATION WANTED.

Would any reader who knows please inform us by postcard or telephone of the names and addresses of the agents or makers of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries:

- 237/43. "Nitrolac": supply.
- 258/37. "Vitrelo": suppliers.
- 1/11. Cannabin cinnamate: makers.
- 254/65. "Nitrine," a food: makers.
- 254/65. Porge's catheters: suppliers.
- 1/31. "Excelsior" brand cod-liver oil.
- 1/30. Gordon's Manila medicated paper.
- 259/10. "Smith's Pectodyne": suppliers.
- 254/650. "Metropolitan" towels: supply.
- 239/73. Address of makers of "Killymoeo."
- 234/4. "Red Cross" toilet-rolls (medicated).
- 253/48. "Cressol" dentifrice: London agents.
- 1/29. "Poudre de Santé": address of makers.
- 250/37. Gabrielle & Cie.'s perfumery: suppliers.
- 249/74. Wyld's ointment for the eyes: makers.
- 237/3. "Solavo" remedies: address of makers.
- 259/39. "Bob Martin's Dog Powders": makers.
- 251/39. Aloe-fibre extracting machinery: makers.
- 242/63. "Vargloss" (to remove stains from linen).
- 239/73. "Pudenta" tooth-brush and tooth-powder.
- 248/25. "Dugal," a veterinary preparation: makers.
- 239/71. Weber's "Solutio Contra Dolores": supply.
- 253/49. Schutte's "Naphthaline Tincture": proprietors.
- 232/62. Wooden small-tooth combs (3½ in. by 1½ in.): makers.
- 258/67. Briconet Frères' gelatin: address of makers or agents.
- 261/24. Calf lymph in glass bulbs with needle attached: suppliers.
- 259/29. "Tragacum" (substitute for gum tragacanth): who makes?
- 253/5. Simpson's "Odin"—gelatin cartridges containing meat extract: makers.
- 259/28. Carbolic tooth-powder (pink), in penny tins; lids red, white, and blue enamelled.
- 255/54. "Gnatt Oil," said to be "a preparation manufactured in Germany": supply.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to where the following articles are obtainable wholesale. We shall be glad to repeat the information to others who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- Antiformin, 257/400
- Bed-rests (makers), 251/55
- Benzosol, 257/124
- Blenosan capsules, 258/32
- Brady's "Daermol," 253/34
- Cadman's "Ozo" inhalers, 254/67
- Calf-lymph, 261/24
- Carbolic tooth-powder (in special tins), 259/28
- Chologen, 1/12
- Clarke's apol compound pills, 261/12
- Cleminite, 258/48
- Correspondence tuition, 250/35
- Crème Darcy, 257/240
- "Cressol" dentifrice, 253/48
- Crutches (actual makers), 251/550
- Crystolis, 258/501
- Dalhoff tea, 261/12
- De Graelles' non-greasy hair-tonic, 256/73
- Devonshire cyder (makers), 261/37
- Dyseleine specialities, 261/31
- Ectodyne, 256/28
- Eleetrie - flashlight sign makers) (Spanish inquiry), 257/14
- Friedmann's serum treatment for tuberculosis, 260/68
- "Hager" salts, 254/68
- Hall's indigestion-tonic, 258/50
- "Holdfast" pacifiers, 254/42
- Hyperol (for Lisbon), 259/47
- Insurance prescriptions, pricing, 261/35
- Invoice punchers (for prescriptions), 251/47
- Iodoprotein, 257/7
- Italian olive-oil soap, green (importers), 250/58
- Kade's "Joha," 254/66
- Kulux compound, 258/503
- Langlebert's Semences de Psyllium, 261/41
- Litholyst, 258/500
- Lukso, 258/502
- Mar-Vol, 256/4

- Mothersill's sea-sickness remedy, 257/16
- Onguent Véritable (Canet), 261/12
- Osogen, 253/11
- Paul's ointment, 258/36
- Paper towels, 257/40
- Plaster manufacturers, British (Spanish inquiry), 257/14
- Pessary-moulds, 207/32
- Postcard-stands, 254/23
- Pro-Vac, 256/44
- Radieloth, 237/52
- Quina Laroche, 259/46
- Renne's magic oil, 258/49
- Rexall Remedies, 258/27
- Rio Chemical Co. (London agents), 248/53
- Roja's shampoo-powder, 249/63
- Rosa-togen, 251/27
- Rothband's waterproof sheeting, 253/35
- "Rubol" oils, 249/74 and 257/15
- Russell's anti-corpulent preparation, 260/48
- Salrado compound, 248/490
- Soda-fountains, 258/38
- Stallax, 258/480
- Stohr's preparations, 257/6
- Sutton's "Pomade Divine," 256/48
- Summer's specialities, 253/49
- Synthetic perfume manufacturers (for Portugal), 259/470
- Syrgol, 247/52
- Tamlin's thermometers, 249/72
- Terrol, 251/40
- Thermometers (for India), 251/39
- Thiomel ointment, 251/48
- Thymic acid, 258/5
- Tins, plain and enamelled, 200/14
- "Toledo" dental spray, 244/69
- Tragacine, 258/29
- Trench's remedies, 261/15
- Tyllithin, 246/17
- Vacuum flasks (British makers), 248/54
- "Veronic" adhesive bandages, 249/73
- Vilixir, 247/53
- Vita-Phosph, 257/55
- Vitogen, 257/160
- Vivash "Capsicum Wool," 245/71
- Wakefield's oils, 256/59
- "Wholesale and Retail Druggists' Price Book" (publishers), 244/4
- Woodbridge's tincture, 256/30
- Wyld's ointment, 249/74
- Yellow prussiate potash (large supplies), 249/59

APPRECIATIONS.

From a Portuguese Importer of Drugs and Medicinal Proprietaries:

"I must congratulate you on the services the C. & D. renders to the subscribers, the kindness and promptness to answer all inquiries being one of the best helps to this trade and to everybody interested in it. The only thing I regret is not to have heard of your publication years before." (259/47.)

COMING EVENTS.

This section of the "C. & D." is reserved for advance notices of meetings or other events. These should be sent to the Editor by Wednesday of the week before the meetings, etc., occur.

Tuesday, March 11.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., at 8 P.M. Evening meeting. Dr. H. A. D. Jowett on "The Relation of Galenical Preparations to their Active Principles"; and Professor H. G. Greenish and Miss D. J. Bartlett on "Powdered Liquorice-root and Senna of Commerece."

Wednesday, March 12.

Wolverhampton Chemists' Association. Discussion on Pricing Insurance Prescriptions.

Newcastle-on-Tyne Chemists' Association, Hotel Métropole, Clayton Street West, at 9 P.M. Paper by Dr. H. J. Slade.

Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society, Literary and Philosophical Society's Rooms, Church Street, at 9 P.M. Mr. B. Hart will give a demonstration of x-ray photography.

Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C., at 8 P.M. Mr. Noel Heaton on "The Use of White-lead in Painting."

Thursday, March 13.

Institute of Ophthalmic Opticians, Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C. At 4 P.M., Council-meeting; at 5.30 P.M., annual meeting; at 8 P.M., annual dinner.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, Oxford Street, London, W., at 9 P.M. Mr. F. H. Hocking and Mr. F. H. Gillett on "The Purity of Commercial Drugs and Chemicals."

North London Pharmacists' Association, Northampton House, St. Paul's Road, Highbury Station, N., at 3.30 P.M. Mr. A. E. Bailey on "Continental Pharmacy."

Friday, March 14.

Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, London, W., at 9 P.M. Dr. A. E. H. Tutton on "Great Advance in Crystallography."

OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

The Mile Radius

is undoubtedly, from the pharmacist's point of view, the worst feature of the Insurance Act, and no effort should be spared to get rid of it. It is a real grievance, and I am not surprised at the large place it occupies in your reports of the working of the Act. There is little if any use in grumbling about it in the Press; every pharmacist whom it affects should at once and persistently put his case as strongly as he can before the Insurance Committee of his district. There is no doubt that in the vast majority of cases the patient could obtain his medicine more conveniently from the chemist than from the doctor; one fact might be urged which by itself proves this—viz., that the chemist is always on the spot, whereas the doctor is as often as not out when wanted; in the nature of the case he cannot always be at home at any given hour. This consideration does not apply where a doctor employs a resident dispenser, but the exception simply proves the rule. The convenience of the patient, however, is not, after all, the chief thing; supposing it to be, as usually it is, an indifferent quantity, the reasons which led Mr. Lloyd George to separate dispensing from prescribing ought to, and if they are sufficiently urged no doubt will, determine the committees' decision in disputed cases. When the pharmacist can show that he is as able as the doctor to meet the convenience of the patient those other considerations to which I have referred establish his right; indeed, they incline the balance in his favour in many cases in which it might otherwise be against him.

Quick Dispensing

need not be either sloppy or inaccurate, for Mr. Skinner is perfectly correct in his statement that quickness and accuracy go more frequently together than otherwise. As an old hand, I can appreciate the exceedingly practical nature of Mr. Skinner's paper, which contains just such hints as will be found most useful to the worried dispenser, particularly the man who comes somewhat late into his kingdom. I have heard of a hospital dispenser who single-handed puts through two hundred prescriptions in two and a half hours, which means on the average one every forty-five seconds. This, of course, can be done only by the aid of stock mixtures and labels ready printed, but even with these the speed is terrific. Still, I think "H. Ustler's" record is a good deal better, since seventy-six scripts in two hours means one every ninety-four seconds, and not a single stock mixture in the lot. Work of this kind certainly needs some hustling, and your correspondent's *nom de plume* is well chosen. On the whole, I do not favour such extreme rapidity, for it must of necessity do away with anything of the nature of "checking" as we understand it. There is a happy medium between excessive speed and dilatory caution, and Mr. Skinner's useful directions will enable many of us to hit it.

The Jubilee Meeting

of the British Pharmaceutical Conference deserves more than passing notice at this stage, when the secretaries are trying to fix up arrangements with the railway companies for reduced rates. I hope that there will be a prompt and unanimous response to the appeal, since there can be little doubt that cheaper fares would tend to the assured success of the Conference, while early intimation that these facilities are desired will be much more likely to secure the object aimed at. The Conference is certain to be largely attended in any event, and we may anticipate a record gathering from all parts of the world to take part in what from various points of view is destined to be an historic

meeting, and incidentally to hear the popular President, Mr. J. C. Umney. The Conference is the one institution connected with pharmacy in this country which is free from any suspicion of axe-grinding, and I therefore warmly support the appeal made in your issue of last week. The Conference represents the fruition of the work of the best mind and brain of the past half-century, and we to-day should do our part to maintain its prestige, and hand on to our successors its splendid traditions untarnished and undimmed.

The Australian Pharmaceutical Conference

is a worthy companion of our own older institution, and it is interesting to observe that some of the men who are most prominent in it have been well trained to the work through connection with the British Pharmaceutical Conference. I refer particularly to our old friend Mr. Cowley, to whom I offer my heartiest congratulations, for I feel sure that much of the success which has so far attended the work of the Australian Conference has been due to his assiduous care. His appointment as Scientific Secretary is a surety that the scientific contributions in future years will continue to be of a high standard, since Mr. Cowley's well-known love of accuracy and his energy and enthusiasm will act as an inspiration to other workers who come in contact with him. It seems fitting that the Conference should specially foster any scheme that may be put forward in connection with the cultivation of medicinal plants. The climate of Australia is such that an unlimited range of drugs could without difficulty be cultivated, and an association like the Conference is the very best agency for keeping the idea alive, and seeing that it is acted upon.

Sugar of Milk

has a history extending over nearly three centuries, and for a considerable part of that time its production has been a well-established industry in Switzerland. It was first separated from whey by an Italian chemist, Fabrizio Bartoletti, in 1619, and was by him called *nitrum seri lactis*, sugar being then and till long afterwards classed among salts. The name by which it is now known is said to have been given to it by another Italian, Testi, by whom is meant, I suppose Fulvio Testi, born at Ferrara in 1597, the son of a pharmacist, and himself both a pharmacist and poet, a somewhat rare combination of professions. Nicholson, writing in 1790, speaks of it as being at that time "separated by evaporation in the large way, for pharmaceutical purposes, in various parts of Switzerland," and the process he describes differs from that given by Thorpe as still followed there only (excepting some small details) in the use of the whites of eggs, and not alum, in clarifying the aqueous solution of the crude sugar. Nicholson does not say for what particular pharmaceutical purposes it was used, or in what countries, but it never found a place in the London or Edinburgh pharmacopœias, though it appeared in all foreign ones before its inclusion in the B.P.

John Quincy

was, I am afraid, something of a quack, in spite of his diploma. At any rate, he is not a very important figure in the history of pharmacy, and his name does not occur in the "Chronicles." His "Pharmacopœia" is of comparatively little interest, and of even less value, although it ran through many editions, the last of which appeared, I believe, in 1769. A good deal of it was stolen without acknowledgment from other writers; and though Quincy was not peculiar in this respect, he is accused of having been worse than others. He gave, as did Fuller and Bates, more space in his book than they deserved to what were called "Anomalous Forms" of medicine, many of the formulæ so described being ostensibly of his own invention.

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Editorial Articles.

A New Epoch in Pharmacy.

X. Intervention.

BEFORE the Medical Benefit of the National Insurance Act has been two months in operation the pharmaceutical part of it is to be inquired into by a Departmental Committee. Whether this is a distinction or a terror to pharmacy and pharmacists is a problem. One thing seems fairly certain—viz., that that much-badgered Minister, Mr. Masterman, will have quiet on the subject of drugs, medicines, and appliances as long as Mr. Smith Whitaker and his fellow-committeemen carry on their inquiry as to

"whether, having regard to the interests of insured persons in obtaining an efficient and rapid supply of drugs, medicines, and appliances, and to the conditions under which those articles were supplied before the passing of the Insurance Act, any alteration is necessary in the conditions laid down by Section 15 (5, iii) of the Act in respect of the matter." The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance have, through this intervention, an unprecedented opportunity of demonstrating by facts and figures (1) the necessity for qualification in dispensing medicines, and (2) the character of the service which chemists and companies have provided under the Insurance Act. On the other hand, Mr. Huntrods and Mr. W. J. Leggett have an opportunity, such as they have not had before, of submitting facts and figures to prove the contention that the provisions of Section 15 (5, iii) do not furnish an efficient and rapid service, and that the pre-Insurance Act conditions were better than those that we have now. It will be noted that no reference is made to class or personal grievances. It is to be expected that the Committee will also inquire into what we may call institutional facilities for the supply of drugs. A goodly proportion of insured persons were wont to get their physic from dispensaries; and at the tightest time of the medical fight the Commissioners did not overlook the possibility of resorting to such dispensaries for drug-service. We may learn after the inquiry to what extent the Commissioners adhere to the idea of a public as opposed to personal pharmaceutical service.

We may, without the slightest idea of offence, regard as intervention the interpretations of the drug-tariff which were issued last week by the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance (see *C. & D.*, index folio 331). These follow lines laid down in our last six issues, and differ only in one material respect—viz., the "up and down" principle. Before dealing with this, perhaps the most important of the Committee's rulings, we call attention to the more noteworthy of the rest:

A single powder (simple or compound) bears a dispensing-fee, if ordered by dose.

Capsules, lozenges, stock pills, stock plasters, and tablets not on the Insurance tariff are to be charged at wholesale price, *plus* a third, with the addition of the proper dispensing-fee.

Effervescent granules come under "Powders, mixed bulk" as regards dispensing-fee.

Proprietary articles are to be charged at P.A.T.A. price, or, if not on Protected List, at the price current locally, *plus* a dispensing-fee.

The remainder of the rulings consist chiefly of re-arrangement of the dispensing charges of the tariff under specific types of preparations, the consequent repetition accounting for the length of the rules. It is satisfactory to note that the single powder difficulty is to a great extent solved, but the Standing Committee has seen fit to draw a distinction between stock pills and plasters, and those made to order. Also under "tablets" no provision is made for those made by the pharmacist himself, although no doubt these will be priced as in the case of pills prepared extemporaneously.

There are still some questions which require authoritative rulings on the part of the Committee. No guidance is given in arriving at rates of unlisted drugs when these fall as a fractional amount—e.g., What is the ounce rate for solids costing 1s. and 1s. 1d. per lb.? Is it 1d. or 1½d.? Dispensing-fees for mixed ointments over 8 oz., and when more than a dozen suppositories, etc., are ordered, are other matters which need settling. No note is made of the important fact that any quantity or size

of appliance on the schedule appended to the regulations under medical benefit must be supplied when ordered. The most serious omission relates to the "up or down" principle. In our article on "Computation" we advised that where prices worked out at a farthing it should be raised to the halfpenny higher. Many chemists have undoubtedly priced their prescriptions on this principle which is embodied in the *C. & D.* Pricing Table. The Committee now states:

When the tariff price of a drug comes to exactly midway between the 1d. and ½d.—for example, 2¼d.—charge the lower figure; in the case of the example, 2d.

The Committee unfortunately stops here. The question immediately arises—What happens when the price is so many pence and three farthings—e.g., does 2¾d. become 3d. or 2½d. The first impression is that it must go down, but we have come to the conclusion that the Committee do not intend this. The price is to go down when exactly between the 1d. and the 1½d., nothing is said about when it is between ½d. and 1d.; and the assumption is that, following the rule in the past, it should go up. It would have been better for all concerned if the Committee had gone on and definitely given its ruling on this point. We cannot think that it is intended to present Insurance Committees with many thousands of farthings at the expense of chemists. If this see-saw principle be adopted, the best mode of arranging it consists of taking a farthing *up* and three-farthings *down*. Thus:

2¼ take up
2¾ take down } 2½d.

The simple rule follows that, whenever farthings occur they become a halfpenny. This procedure would be equitable for both the chemists and the Insurance Committees, as each would gain as much as they lose. The rulings of the Standing Committee are acceptable as making towards uniformity, but we do not regard them as final, because it is to be expected that some modification of the dispensing-fees will be made on an early occasion, as several ridiculous anomalies arise from the system of pricing.

Celluloid Legislation.

LAST October the Home Secretary appointed a Departmental Committee consisting of the Earl of Plymouth (Chairman), Dr. J. J. Dobbie, F.R.S., Captain Maurice B. Lloyd, Mr. H. M. Robinson, and Mr. Edwin O. Sachs, to inquire and report as to the precautions necessary in the use of celluloid in manufacture and the handling and storage of celluloid and celluloid articles. The Committee (to which Mr. James Ollis, of the L.C.C., was subsequently added) has been taking evidence since then, and even during the recent Parliamentary recess, and reports have appeared regularly in our pages. The terms of the reference were given in the *C. & D.*, November 30, index folio 804, and they embrace retail shops, but so far little evidence of danger in that quarter has been given. In the meantime the Corporation of the City of London and the London County Council have determined to act in the matter independently of the Government, and hastily, and unwisely we think, taken steps to introduce into the Session of Parliament which begins on March 10 Bills with respect to the licensing and regulation of premises in which cinematograph films, celluloid, and other inflammable substances are manufactured, kept, or otherwise dealt with, or which are used for the purpose of dangerous businesses. The terms of the Bills are such as to include every retail chemist in the City and Metropolitan areas, and to make it possible for the powers that be to extract hundreds a year from chemists for licence fees. We do not say that

they will, but that the Corporation and Council will have the power to is seen in the following excerpts from the Bill (we quote from the L.C.C. one, but the City one is on similar lines, excepting the "dangerous business" provisions). First we give definitions embodied in Clause 3:

"Celluloid" means celluloid xylonite and other similar inflammable substances not being cinematograph film.

"Celluloid store" means any premises in the County upon which for the purposes of sale hire or profit celluloid is:

(a) Manufactured or employed in any process of manufacture where the quantity of celluloid at any one time exceeds in the aggregate ten pounds in weight; or

(b) For any other purpose kept handled or otherwise dealt with in quantities which at any one time exceed in the aggregate five hundred and sixty pounds in weight.

"Celluloid shop" means any premises in the County upon which for the purposes of sale hire or profit celluloid is kept handled or otherwise dealt with (except for the purpose of being manufactured or employed in any process of manufacture) in quantities which at any one time in the aggregate exceed ten pounds but do not exceed five hundred and sixty pounds in weight.

"Dangerous business" means the manufacture upon any premises in the County of matches ignitable by friction or otherwise or of other substances liable to sudden explosion inflammation or ignition or of turpentine naphtha varnish tar resin or Brunswick black and any other manufacture upon any such premises which is dangerous on account of the liability of the materials or substances employed therein to cause sudden fire or explosion.

We question if there is a chemist's shop in the whole country which does not come within the definition of "celluloid" shop, on account of the combs, puff-boxes, tooth-brushes, scoops, spatulas, and other articles which are kept for sale or use, and 10-lb. weight of these is not a large stock. Any doubtful chemist with the articles at hand might try. The "dangerous business" definition (which does not, as already stated, occur in the City Bill) is also objectionable, in so far as it covers the manufacture of turpentine preparations, such as furniture-polish, boot-polish, and similar compounds of turpentine, with wax or other constituents in the preparation of which heat is necessary. Clause 4 of the Bill shows how such processes are brought within the measure. We quote the three first sub-clauses of it:

(1) From and after the thirty-first day of March one thousand nine hundred and fourteen it shall not be lawful for any person to use any premises for the purpose of a cinematograph film store or of a celluloid store or of any dangerous business except in pursuance of a licence so to do granted under the provisions of this Part of this Act.

(2) Any person requiring a licence or the renewal of a licence in respect of a cinematograph film store or a celluloid store or a dangerous business shall make application in writing to the controlling authority.

(3) Every application for a licence to use for the purpose of a cinematograph film store or of a celluloid store or of a dangerous business any premises in use for that purpose after the passing of this Act shall be made within one month after the date or (if more than one) the latest date of publication of the advertisements referred to in the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Notice of this Part of Act to be given."

The licence when granted will cost a sum not exceeding one pound, and for renewal ten shillings. The Bill gives powers to regulate the shops, to inspect them, to impose penalties, and other things incidental to municipal control. We do not think it is necessary to urge the desirability of retail chemists and the drug-trade generally doing something to oppose the Bills in Parliament. If for no other reason than that the Bills are "too previous," seeing that the Government inquiry is not completed, they should be opposed. Besides evidence is wanting of fires or other untoward results arising from chemists handling celluloid goods in the ordinary way of trade. A petition against the City Bill has been lodged by, *inter alios*, Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons, Aldersgate Street, London, E.C., which gives them a *locus standi* enabling them to lay before Parliament any letters of protest against the City Bill that chemists and others may write. In regard to the L.C.C. Bill the British Xylonite Company, Ltd., Hale End, London, have similar *locus standi*, and those outside

the City and within the Metropolitan area should address the company. Metropolitan Chemists' Associations should also do something in the matter; in fact, nothing should be left undone to protect the interests of retail traders so far as these Bills interfere with them unnecessarily.

Our Parliamentary representative learns that some delay is likely to take place in the prosecution by the City of London of the Bill, because a number of petitions have been presented against it. The first private Bill will in all probability not be taken in either House until March 27, and there is little likelihood that either the Corporation or London County Council Bills will be heard of for some weeks to come. It is understood that there is an informality regarding the latter, which may upset it altogether.

Cod-liver Oil.

ALTHOUGH the Norwegian cod-fishing commenced six weeks ago under favourable auspices, it has since made comparatively slow progress, and the figures which we give below show a considerable deficiency as compared with last year. Lofoten, to which we look for the finest quality of medicinal oil, has so far only produced 793 hectolitres, or 683 barrels of oil, while for the whole of Norway the output to March 1 was only 8,011 hect. (6,906 barrels), or 8,218 barrels fewer than last year. The week by week results since the fishing was inaugurated at the end of January are shown in the following table:

Lofoten.

Period ending	Catch of Cod (millions)		Livers for Raw Oils (hect.)		Yield of c.l.o. (hect.)	
	1912	1913	1912	1913	1912	1913
Jan. 25.....	—	0.27	—	30	—	9
Feb. 1.....	—	0.89	—	94	—	48
" 8.....	0.584	0.194	101	140	408	78
" 15.....	1.8	0.371	149	157	1,386	214
" 22.....	3	0.670	267	180	2,411	395
March 1.....	4.6	1.3	489	233	3,658	793

Whole Country.

Period ending	Catch of Cod (millions)		Livers for Raw Oils (hect.)		Yield of c.l.o. (hect.)	
	1912	1913	1912	1913	1912	1913
Jan. 25.....	—	4.7	—	2,350	—	3,603
Feb. 1.....	6.5	5.9	1,900	1,964	6,400	5,091
" 8.....	7.9	6.4	2,054	2,163	8,000	5,604
" 15.....	12.2	7	2,616	2,158	11,458	5,909
" 22.....	16.3	8.3	3,206	2,588	14,855	6,753
March 1.....	20.2	10.3	3,575	2,754	17,544	8,011

Apart from the much smaller catch, the cod and livers are poorer in quality than last year, the percentage of oil being from 38 to 43, compared with from 42 to 46 per cent., while it requires from 430 to 580 livers to make one hectolitre, against 420 to 550 last year. These conditions have made Norwegian refiners very cautious in offering new oil, of which supplies have been coming forward slowly, and as it became more and more apparent that the conditions were entirely reversed this year, the market, almost since the opening of the season, has shown a steady advance. This was the state of affairs until Friday last, when a fair business was put through in several directions for new oil at 85s. to 90s. per barrel c.i.f. Subsequently, however, with continued stormy weather and meagre results, the offers were withdrawn by several agents, and nominal rates substituted, up to 100s. per barrel being quoted. Those who were still in the market on Wednesday quoted from 88s. to 95s. c.i.f., according to brand; but it is said that nothing higher than 90s. has yet been paid. The latest intelligence from our Bergen correspondent shows that the weather continues stormy, and in other quarters the market is cabled as "excited," so that the probability is for further advances. It is quite understood that the Lofoten fishing, usually closing at Easter, will continue for a fortnight or more after that festival, and this, added to the fact that there is a fair quantity of last season's oil left in Norway, has probably prevented any sensational advance. The Medical and Sanatorium Benefits of the National Insurance Act have considerably increased the consumption of cod-liver oil in this country.

NOTES ON NOVELTIES

AND OTHER MATTERS OF TRADE INTEREST

"JOHN BULL" GROWS

more rapidly on malt-extract than on most things. This is shown in a forcibly manner by Messrs. Paine & Co., Ltd., St. Neots, Hunts, in their advertisement this week. The growth relates to their malt-extract and malt and oil, which are also of special interest to exporters on account of the fact that the extract does not crystallise in warm climates.

PASCALL'S GOLDEN MALTEX.

This beautiful sweetmeat and nutrient contains 25 per cent. of malt extract, and is an ever-popular article that wise mothers give to their children, especially at this season, when many are confined to the house with colds, measles, and other children's ailments. So it is a good time for chemists to make a show of it. James Pascall, Ltd., London, are the makers, and they furnish particulars to home and export buyers who write to them.

ALLEN'S ENGLISH ALMOND OIL.

Messrs. Stafford Allen & Sons, Ltd., 7 Cowper Street, Finsbury, London, E.C., are well known throughout the British Empire, in the United States, and on the Continent of Europe for their almond oil (ol. amygdalæ, B.P.). We have had the opportunity of examining a recent specimen, which we find to be odourless and practically tasteless. The analytical factors are:

Sp. gr. at 15°, 0.918; ref. index at 20°, 1.4710; iodine value, 97.38; saponification value, 190.8; acid value, 1.53 (as oleic acid, 0.8 per cent.). The Bieber reagent gave a white emulsion, and the nitric-acid test a white emulsion, while a hard white solid separated on standing.

Messrs. Stafford Allen & Sons now regularly publish in their advertisements at home and abroad such factors as these within a border of blanched almonds. The figures available are within the limits of the principal Pharmacopœias and the factors suggested by the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy, as the following comparison by Mr. E. Theodore Brewis, F.I.C., shows:

—	B.P. 1858	C. of R.	U.S.P.	P.G. V.	P.F. 1903
S.G. ...	0.915–0.920 at 15.5°	0.915–0.920 at 15.5°	0.910–0.915 at 25°	0.915–0.920 at 15°	0.915–0.920
Ref. ind. ...	—	1.4624–1.4640 at 40° (?)	—	—	1.4728 at 15°
Iod. value ..	—	93–100	95–100	—	95–9
Saponif. value	—	188–196	191–200	—	—
Acid value	—	under 4	—	—	—
Freezing point	nearly –20°	–13°	Clear –10° congeal –20°	–10°	Clear –10° congeal –11°
Fatty acids	—	—	Liquid at 15° Sol. in 95% alc., 1-1 also 1-2	Liquid at ord. temp. Sol. in alc. 1-1 and 1-2	—
Bieber reagent	—	Given	—	—	—
Nitric-acid test	Given	—	Given	Given	Given

No better evidence of the purity and high quality of this almond oil could be given than the fact that it meets these diverse requirements. Messrs. Stafford Allen & Sons supply wholesalers only.

THE HOLDFAST DISC.

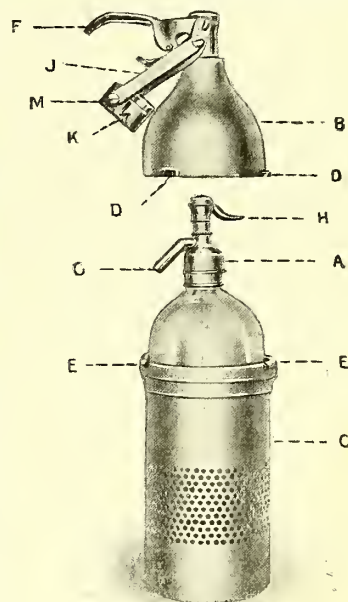
Messrs. Kay Bros., Ltd., Stockport, have introduced a simple yet clever idea for facilitating the suspension of

articles on glass surfaces. It consists of a disc of cardboard, $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter, in the centre of which is a wire staple; half of this staple is drawn out to form a hook, and the back of the disc is smeared with "Tenasitine" cement and placed on the glass, where it sticks closer than a brother, forming a convenient miniature peg to hang anything on. The discs should be useful to chemists and other retail shopkeepers for displaying specimens of goods, showcards, and similar objects. Thirty of the discs with a tube of Tenasitine are packed in a box to retail at 6d. Chemists should be able to sell them to their customers, as many uses for them can be found in the household.

PURE AERATION SUPPLY.

One of the smartest ideas which Aërotors, Ltd., Craig's Court, Charing Cross, London, S.W., have carried into

practical effect is illustrated in the accompanying engraving. The idea is to enable any chemist or other purveyor of aerated waters to fill syphons extemporaneously by means of a new refillable CO₂ bulb and without expensive filling apparatus—in fact, the only apparatus is the charger of nickel-plated sheet-brass, shown in the engraving. The body (C) of this receives a generous-sized syphon, enabling 40 oz. of water to be charged. The syphon top screws off at A in order to clean and fill it. Two pints of water (syruped or charged with any medicinal ingredient) is poured



in, and the syphon top is screwed on. The next thing is to put a bulb of CO₂ in the charger head (B) at K-J, and fit the head on the body, turning it round, so that the bayonet catches (D and E) fix it thoroughly. All that has to be done now is to draw back the lever (F) to the right side, when the CO₂ bulb, by means of an ingenious mechanism, is brought to C, pierced, and simultaneously the lever H is pressed down, so that the CO₂ gas bubbles into the syphon contents. Half-a-minute's shaking does the rest. The company supply six dozen special syphons made of the finest Bohemian crystal glass, with pure tin heads, a charger, and six one-dozen boxes of bulbs, for 10/11s. 6d. net, and as the cost of charging a syphon is 1d. for the bulb contents, it is apparent that the outfit soon pays for itself. The empty bulbs are allowed for by the company when returned to them as empties. There is a big demand for the new system, which is specially adapted for export.

A WEST-END VISIT.

The calm professional atmosphere of that part of the West End where medical specialists congregate is deceptive. This was a reflection of our

representative who, calling this week on W. Martindale, 10 New Cavendish Street, London, W., found himself in a veritable focus of industry. Dr. W. Harrison Martindale acted as cicerone in a walk through the premises. Beginning at the principal's office, passing the telephone-room (the telephone seemed to be constantly in use), and the invoice department, we came across a man wheeling along a trolley-load of the "Extra Pharmacopœia." "How is the "Extra" selling, now that fission has taken place?"—it is the atmosphere again that makes one talk bacteriologically. "Oh, the last edition has been the most successful of all its many predecessors. The two volumes are selling pretty evenly," replied my guide. "People don't want to miss anything good," was my audible thought. We were now in a room where nitroglycerin tablets were being turned out at a great rate from a modern tablet-machine. "No, you had better not eat those, they will make your head throb," said Dr. Martindale, as I reached out to take a few of the dainty chocolate tablets. "But here is something which you may usefully test *in vile corpore*." The something was a new tablet containing *Catha edulis*, the formula for which has just been worked out. Each tablet represents 10 grains of the actual leaf, and with a chocolate base the tablets form a tasty and useful stimulant to those undergoing or desiring to ward off fatigue. A *Catha edulis* tablet has an effect somewhat similar to a cup of tea, but it can be taken at times when the beverage is not within the range of practicability. Now we had arrived in the galenical laboratory, where the usual operations of the manufacturing chemists were being carried on. In addition, there were being conducted what to me are less familiar processes—e.g., the manufacture of sodium and potassium formates (required in quantity for Martindale's syr. formatum co. and glycerophosphate syrup with formates), magnesium cream, thorium oleate, bromoprotein (a substitute for the organic bromides, containing the bromine in a labile condition in the presence of alkali, but insoluble in the acids of the stomach), effervescent phenolphthalein, and glucose tubes for artificial feeding. This is a characteristic daily list of manufactures, as those chemists are aware who look to Martindale's not only for ordinary products, but for the newest medicaments. It should in justice be added that many of the forms in which new remedies and combinations are exhibited owe their origin to the fertile brain of Dr. Martindale, which seems to throw out pharmaceutical ideas with the same regularity with which the liver secretes bile. The analytical and bacteriological laboratory was next reached, and here were to be seen many things of interest. Soil analysis is a newly organised section, and, following up Dr. Martindale's recent article in the *C. & D.*, a more popular account has been prepared in book form. This is intended for distribution by chemists to customers who are especially interested in the question of chemical manures. It should lead to an intelligent appreciation of what is needed for making good the deficiencies of any particular soil, which should also lead to a demand for trustworthy soil analysis—*verb. sap. sat.* It was here that we spoke of Dr. Martindale's colour-test for digitalis tincture. It will be remembered that this new method of assay was the subject of a paper at an evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society, and the question arose as to whether the test would apply equally to a tincture that has been kept for some years. This can now be answered in the affirmative, as a number of authenticated old samples have been received from various parts of the country, and submitted to the test, with results that confirm the author's original contention regarding the trustworthiness of the test. A large clock glass containing a mass of silky crystals attracted my attention, and although for good reasons my curiosity was not wholly satisfied, I gathered that the crystals are a new active principle of vegetable origin, about which details may be expected shortly. Returning now to the office, I was shown new radium applicators (a special varnish ensures that the radium comes into intimate contact with the skin) and a series of various sheet-metals of definite thicknesses, so that graduated and exact applications of radium can be made. I brought away with me a copy of the new quarterly wholesale price-

list, which is having a special circulation in the Colonies. The contents of the price-list are as varied as they are useful, and chemists who are not acquainted with the list should send for a copy.

COUNTER ADJUNCTS.

Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., Liverpool and London, have struck a note of distinction and simpli-



city in the new manner that they put up boric ointment, carbolic ointment, zinc ointment, and vaseline (white and yellow) to retail at 4d. (1 oz.) and 6d.

(2 oz.). The container is a green glass vase, with white celluloid cap, the label is black on white, and the carton is white with black printing, the letters being of the same quiet style as the labels. The get-up is eminently in good taste. The company are also making a feature of eau de Cologne in the "Naiad" and "Wedgwood" series, differing only in respect to the labelling. The specimen reproduced is the "Wedgwood." The bottle is of white glass, with a sprinkler covered with a cardinal coloured cap, which gives a strikingly attractive finish to the bottle. The 4-oz. size costs 18s. 6d. per doz., and the 8-oz. 36s., and the retailer's name and address can be printed on the labels. These new additions to the well-known series of counter adjuncts worthily maintain the reputation which has characterised the series since it was commenced several decades since.



PALMOLIVE SOAP.

We referred last week to the introduction of this popular American soap manufactured by the B. J. Johnson Soap Co., and since then we have had an opportunity of testing it. It is an oblong cake of olive colour and pleasant perfume, packed in crinkled olive-green paper, with label and seal. The soap is agreeable in use, as it furnishes a creamy lather even with hard London water, and it can be used for shaving with good results, which is a severe test of the detergent and emollient qualities of the soap. It retails at 6d. per tablet on P.A.T.A. terms, and Messrs. F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., Charterhouse Street, London, E.C., are the agents.

THE WIGGLESWORTH WAY

of selling compressed sulphur tablets, by giving retailers all possible assistance so far as showcards and window-displays, has already been referred to in these pages. Their latest production is a showcard measuring 13 in. long by 10 in. deep, printed in lemon and mauve for a window-display. The wording is as follows:

GET YOUR BLOOD RIGHT.

SULPHUR FRUITS.

Sulphur Fruits are made from Sulphur, Cream of Tartar, and Sugar, carefully blended with Natural Fruit Juices which make this Invaluable Blood Medicine taste like delicious sweetmeats.

Boils, Pimples, and Skin Blotches indicate to what extent your blood is out of condition. The fact that skin blemishes so quickly disappear when you commence to take these Tablets is a convincing proof of their excellent Blood Cleansing Properties.

Pure Blood will give you
A CLEAR, HEALTHY SKIN.

The tablets sell at 3½d. for 4 oz. Messrs. Wigglesworth & Co., Rosehill Works, Bolton, will supply any reader with further information on the subject.

STEVENS' CONSUMPTION CURE.

The sole proprietors of this preparation, C. H. Stevens, Ltd., Wimbledon, London, S.W., notify the trade in regard to the non-identity of the preparation with another, which some have erroneously assumed to be the same.

"GEGENUBER" EAU DE COLOGNE.

Messrs. J. & R. McCracken, 10 Bush Lane, London, E.C., agents for J. M. Farina, Gegenüber dem Julichs-Platz, Cologne, submit a specimen of a dainty easel show-card of the Eau de Cologne. It measures 7½ in. by 6 in., is printed in black and gold, and is sent to the trade on application, with a supply of counter-bills.

MAY ROBERTS & Co.'s PRICE-LIST.

Messrs. May Roberts & Co., Ltd., London and Dublin, have issued their price-list of druggists' sundries revised to February 1913. Part I. (292 8vo. pages) is an illustrated list of sundries, glass, surgical instruments, and allied products; Part II. (88 pages) consists of special prices for patent medicines and proprietary articles, and Part III. (67 pages) is an illustrated list of packed drugs, perfumes, and toilet and household requisites. Exporters and others in the business can obtain a copy of the list from the company on application.

"VISEM" IN POWDER

is the latest product from St. Ivel, Ltd., 33 Park Road, London, S.W. The "Visem's" distinction as a tonic and brain food is in containing lecithin. The tablet form is specially serviceable as a pocket companion; the powder form is serviceable for use with milk or other food. It is put up in square tins which open easily, and are artistically labelled. See the company's announcement in this issue.

OPTICAL GOODS.

The Nitsche & Gunther Optical Co., Ltd., 66 Hatton Garden, London, E.C., enumerate in their advertisement in this issue the leading lines of their manufacture. These include the "Stork" brand spectacles and eye-glasses, also the "Ratenoid" and "En-Gee" brands. In lenses the "Menisken" and "Hallauer" are noted, the latter being of tinted glass. The "Nowate" eye-glass case is specially light, as its name implies. Sight-testing appliances and optical machinery are also supplied.

"VELVEY" GOODS.

The latest novelty which Mr. H. A. Wanklyn, 17 Manchester Avenue, London, E.C., has added to his "Velvey" series is the "Velvey" comb. It is a particularly useful



comb for ladies as it is made of fine vulcanised Para rubber, and is flexible, yet tough and durable. The teeth of the comb have a slight twist, as the illustration shows, and, as the comb is highly polished, it is agreeable to use. With each comb is given a cleaning brush, the two being enclosed in a box to retail at 2s. 6d. in the case of No. 1, which is large size. Mr. Wanklyn is now supplying the "Velvey" flat, circular india-rubber sponges "double-faced." When introduced fully three years ago the underside of these sponges was like ordinary india-rubber; now by cementing two pieces together a perfect sponge all over is produced at a remarkably cheap rate, because a by-product is thus utilised to the best advantage. Mr. Wanklyn will give quotations to inquirers.

"SAL-VO SANITARY PAPER"

is the title which Messrs. Ford, Shapland & Co., 5 Great Turnstile, High Holborn, London, W.C., are

giving to a new toilet paper which they have introduced. It is a tough Manilla tissue paper of pale lemon colour, and possessing the peculiarity of disintegrating in water, so that it does not choke closet or drain pipes. It is packed in cartons of 600 and 1,000 sheets measuring 8½ in. by 5½ in., and retailing at 1s. and 1s. 6d. each, wholesale 50s. and 75s. per box of 100 cartons, so that it is a profitable line. The design of the carton is illustrated in the firm's advertisement.

"THOLA" TOOTH-PASTE.

Messrs. Van Essen, James & Co., Ltd., 100 Bermondsey Street, London, S.E., are specialising in the manufacture of tooth-pastes, and the "Thola" is a good example of their productions. It is put up in collapsible tubes, with a slit orifice, and each tube is packed in a pink carton to retail at 7½d. to 1s. per tube, according to locality. The company inform us that their price to the trade is 48s. per gross (thirteen dozen to the gross), and they make a special bonus to chemists who take this quantity by posting to dentists, doctors, or special customers in the district two dozen samples, accompanied by a circular giving the chemist's name as agent.

PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. T. C. CORNWELL, Ph.C., Hanley, has been elected President of the North Staffs Traders' Association.

MR. JOHN R. MARTEN, M.P.S., 55 Preston Road, Brighton, has been elected a member of the National Society of Chiropractors.

MR. JOHN G. HEWLETT, F.C.S., chairman of Messrs. C. J. Hewlett & Son, Ltd., Charlotte Street, Curtain Road, London, E.C., has been re-elected unopposed to the Kent County Council, as member for the Alexandra Division of Beckenham.

COUNCILLOR F. BASCOMBE, Ph.C., F.I.C., has been elected by the Lambeth Borough Council one of their representatives to serve on the District Insurance Committee for Lambeth. As captain of the Lambeth Carlton Bowling Club, he presided at a smoking-concert held on February 22, when the collection for charities amounted to 7l. 0s. 9d.

MR. BERNARD W. GILL, son of Mr. W. Gill, Secretary until recently of the Nottingham and Notts Pharmaceutical Association, contributed to the "Nottinghamshire Guardian" of March 1 a two-column article on "Bird Life in the Trent Valley." The observations of the young writer show much promise of good work in Nature subjects.

MR. RICHARD WINFREY, M.P., was thrown heavily while following the Fitzwilliam hounds on March 3 near Luton, Hunts. He was found to be in a dazed condition, and was removed to Luton Rectory, and afterwards conveyed to his home at Peterborough. A medical examination there revealed internal injuries, but it is stated that these are not so serious as was at first thought.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM FURNIVAL, of 113 City Road, Cardiff, celebrated their golden wedding on Saturday, having been married at St. Mary's Church, Bristol, on March 1, 1863. Mr. Furnival, who is one of the oldest chemists in the city, came to Cardiff nearly forty years ago. There are five sons and three daughters living, and at the family gathering on Saturday there were also present nine grandchildren.

DEED OF ARRANGEMENT.

Kennedy, William Murphy, Church Street, Holywood, co. Down, Pharmaceutical Chemist.—Petition for arrangement, accompanied by the customary affidavits of assets and liabilities. Dated, February 27; filed, February 28. Secured or partly secured creditors' claims, 15l.; unsecured, 505l.; estimated net assets, 315l.

National Health Insurance.

Administration of Medical Benefit as regards Chemists' Interests.

The Drug Stores' Grievance.

Committee of Inquiry Appointed.

Two documents were issued by the National Health Insurance Commission (England) on February 28 and March 1, and are subjoined:

(February 28.)

A Committee has been appointed, consisting of James Smith Whitaker, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of the National Health Insurance Commission (England) (Chairman);

Walter Davies, Esq.;

James Crawford Ledlie, Esq., of the Privy Council Office;

Claud Schuster, Esq., of the National Health Insurance Commission (England);

Lauriston Elgie Shaw, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.

to inquire and report whether, having regard to the interests of insured persons in obtaining an efficient and rapid supply of drugs, medicines, and appliances, and to the conditions under which those articles were supplied before the passing of the National Insurance Act, 1911, any alteration is necessary in the conditions laid down by Section 15 (5) of the National Insurance Act in respect of the matter.

All communications in regard to the Committee should be addressed to the Secretary, James Rae, Esq., at the National Health Insurance Commission (England), Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.

(March 1.)

Mr. Masterman desires to make it known that the enactment of the National Insurance Act, 1911, mentioned in the reference to the Committee appointed to inquire and report as to the conditions imposed by the Act on the supply of drugs, medicines, and appliances to insured persons should be Section 15 (5, iii) of the Act, and not Section 15 (5).

The enactment referred to is as follows:

Subject to the regulations made by the last foregoing proviso the regulations shall prohibit arrangements for the dispensing of medicines being made with persons other than persons, firms, or bodies corporate entitled to carry on the business of a chemist and druggist under the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as amended by the

Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, who under 31 & 32 Vicr. take that all medicines supplied by them to

c. 121. insured persons shall be dispensed either by

8 Edw. 7. or under the direct supervision of a registered

c. 55. pharmacist or by a person who, for three

years immediately prior to the passing of this Act, has acted as a dispenser to a duly qualified medical practitioner or a public institution.

We may recall the fact that on Wednesday, February 12, the Insurance Commissioners received a deputation from the Incorporated Society of Pharmacy and Drug-store Proprietors of Great Britain, Ltd., with reference to the position of such proprietors under the enactment. The incident was reported in the *C. & D.*, February 15, index folio 264. On the same day in the House of Commons Mr. Felix Cassel, M.P. for St. Pancras, suggested, after Mr. Masterman had answered questions on the subject, that a small Committee should be appointed to consider what he called "the numerous cases of hardship which had arisen"; upon which Mr. Masterman remarked: "At first thought that seems to be a good idea."

Mr. W. J. Leggett, 164 Wavertree Road, Liverpool, sends us copies of correspondence that he has had with Mr. G. A. Touche, M.P. for Islington, and Mr. Cassel, showing that it was he who prompted the questions which these members asked in the House of Commons. Mr. Cassel wrote to Mr. Leggett (Secretary of the London and Provincial U.R. Druggists' and Drug-stores' Association) on March 3 as follows:

"Referring to your letters on the subject of Insurance dispensers, you will be pleased to know that as a result of a question which I put, Mr. Masterman has now appointed a small committee to inquire into this whole question."

We have the result in the appointment of this Committee, which was not unexpected in well-informed circles. Three of the five members of the Committee are Government officers, Mr. Schuster being Secretary to the Commis-

sioners. Mr. Walter Davies is Secretary of the Sons of Temperance Friendly Society and chairman of the Manchester Insurance Committee. He is also a representative of insured persons on the Advisory Committee. Dr. Shaw is a Harley Street practitioner, who was formerly a member of the Council of the British Medical Association, but resigned, as he is a strong advocate of the National Insurance Act, and was the leader in starting the rival association.

The proceedings of the Committee will be private.

"Rept. Mist."

Mr. F. Rideal, Secretary of the Glossop and District Pharmaceutical Association, sends us the subjoined copies of letters which have passed between him and the Insurance Commissioners:

Commissioners, National Health Insurance, London.

February 6, 1913.

DEAR SIRS,—My committee have instructed me to write you re prescriptions written "Rep. Mist.," with date of reference or the date omitted.

Our Association have met the doctors of the district, when we took objection to prescriptions written "Rep. Mist.," because—

1. That a prescription should be complete in itself and written *in extenso*.

2. That the Act declares free choice of doctor, chemist, and Insurance Society.

3. That a proprietary right is given to the chemist who first makes up the mixture.

To-day I have received a reply from the Secretary of the local Medical Association saying it was decided:

"That it is absolutely essential to continue the use of 'Rep. Mist.' on the prescription forms, giving date of reference."

Kindly give me your decision whether prescriptions so written are right, and will you pass such prescriptions for payment even if we (chemists) copy the original prescription at foot of such form so written?

Yours truly,

F. RIDEAL.

116225/13.

February 14, 1913.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 6th inst., I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commission (England) to inform you that they would offer no objection to the adoption of a system enabling doctors to order medicines already supplied to insured persons by reference to the person's prescriptions. The system adopted should, however, be such as will enable the chemist readily to identify the prescription to which reference is made.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. F. Rideal, Glossop.

E. MACGOWAN.

Dispensing Arrangements.

Being reports of meetings and notes on other matters from various local centres.

Accrington.—The first annual meeting of the Accrington Pharmacists' Association was held on March 5, the President (Mr. Thornber) in the chair. A letter was read from Mr. Clare (Clerk to the Lancashire Insurance Committee) dealing with the question of unqualified men advertising as dispensers under the National Insurance Act. He appreciated the seriousness to pharmacists arising from this practice, but pointed out his inability to check it at the moment. Later on he hoped definite steps will be taken by the Lancashire Committee to restrain the practice. Mr. Clare also informed the Association that the question of late fees for "out-of-hours" dispensing is now under consideration. The Chairman introduced the question of stock mixtures, pointing out that there is a desire existing among many medical men even to work on the basis of a local formulary. After considerable discussion it was decided to appoint a small committee to deal with the matter. The meeting was informed of the death of Mr. Halstead (Rishton), one of its first members, who had died of heart failure the preceding day. A vote of condolence was passed with the family. The report of the Treasurer (Mr. Snell) showed the finances to be in a healthy condition. A resolution was passed regarding the claims of unqualified persons to dispense for insured persons. The officers of the Association were re-elected.

Bolton.—The Insurance Committee has obtained the authority of the Commissioners to pay to chemists on account up to 50 per cent. of their bills. The question of supply of medicines in the rural areas of the town has been discussed, but most insured persons are in a position to obtain supplies from chemists, so that the necessity for the doctors to supply has not arisen. It is reported that one doctor has a notice in his surgery offering to supply medicines at 3d. a bottle to insured persons who do not wish to go to the chemists.

Derbyshire.—A joint meeting of the Derbyshire Medical and Pharmaceutical Committees was held at the Bell Hotel, Derby, on February 20. Drs. Bloomer, Eames, and Tobin represented medicine, and Messrs. Cope, Elmitt, Gelsthorpe, Haynes, Ridyard, Southern, and Wright pharmacy. Dr. S. Barwise, medical adviser to the Derbyshire Insurance Committee, was also present and presided. The following resolutions were passed for recommendation to the Insurance Committee:

(1) That prescription form Med. 13 should be printed in two types (a) as at present, but that forty forms should be printed in one book for writing prescriptions at patients' homes, and (b) that larger books containing at least four prescriptions on a page as is done with large cheque books, each book to contain 500 to 1,000 prescription-forms, should be prepared for the surgery or consulting room. Also, that it is desirable that the prescription-forms should be numbered with consecutive numbers or consecutive numbers and letters, so as to facilitate reference.

(2) That for the present in all cases where repeat is necessary, the medical profession should be allowed to use the formula of "Rep. Mist," where they wish, the last mixture given to be repeated, the chemists to file these with the original prescriptions.

(3) After discussion it was unanimously resolved that "stock mixtures" should not be prescribed, but that in chronic cases it should be the practice to give 12-oz. mixtures with one-tablespoonful doses that larger quantities should not be prescribed, nor smaller doses than one tablespoonful of any mixture.

With a view to protecting the credit of the Drug Fund and Drug Suspense Fund as far as possible, it was resolved that the Secretary of the Derbyshire Pharmaceutical Association (Mr. C. W. Ridyard, Codnor) should prepare a memorandum with reference to the prescribing of proprietary articles, giving in each case the scientific name of the same preparation, and that the medical profession should be asked in all cases to refrain from prescribing such drugs under their proprietary names, so as to economise prices, and that in prescribing they should not specify any wholesale manufacturing chemist.

Essex.—At a meeting of the Insurance Committee on February 23 attention was called to a price-list issued by a wholesale firm in which there was the following note: "If Insurance quality required, ask for special prices." Mr. E. A. Holloway, in a letter to the "Daily Telegraph" of March 4, states the note related to extract of malt and cod-liver oil, and was quoted from a list issued by a wholesale firm of druggists' sundriesmen and patent-medicine dealers. As representing the 200 pharmacists on the panel in the county, the Chairman allowed him to reply to the point raised. Mr. Holloway's answer is that the list is chiefly distributed to tea-shops and general stores. At the same meeting it was resolved to increase the doctors on the Committee to seven, including two from the County Council. Mr. Holloway proposed that, in view of so many matters relating to the interests of chemists, that three other pharmacists should be placed on the Committee. It was decided to appeal to the Commissioners for permission.

Glasgow.—At a meeting of panel chemists on Friday, February 23, Mr. Hart presiding, it was unanimously resolved: "That this meeting of chemists on the Glasgow Burgh panel is of opinion, after one month's experience of the working of the drug tariff,

1. That the dispensing-fees are in a number of instances inadequate.

2. That the method of pricing in the "drug tariff" is not consistently followed throughout.

3. That the flat rates for waters, plasters, infusions, spirits, and tinctures, being apparently based upon the value of the least expensive in each class, are unfair and unremunerative, and should be abolished.

4. That in several instances the wholesale rate per lb. is taken as the basis of tariff prices for drugs which are purchased by very few pharmacists in quantities above one or two ounces.

5. That no provision is made for a charge for necessary containers other than bottles for liquids.

6. That the list of "appliances" ought to be capable of readjustment to suit local conditions.

It was not deemed advisable, for several reasons, to press for a night-fee in the meantime. The Secretary was requested to give the meeting a rough estimate of the amount of the available money in the drug fund which was likely to be used up. His statement was to the effect that there is likely to be a large surplus on the present basis of prescribing, and the rates offered for dispensing. The President then proposed: "That this meeting of chemists on the Glasgow Burgh panel requests the local Pharmaceutical Committee to make representation to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee, Scotland, and the local Insurance Committee of the Glasgow Burgh with reference to the points on the foregoing resolution, with a view to the redress of the anomalies therein indicated." This was seconded by Mr. Lennox, and adopted unanimously. Mr. Rutherford Hill was present, and explained a number of points. He paid a high compliment to the Glasgow Association, stating that

he does not know any other city in the Kingdom where the Act is more ably grasped, and its many difficulties surmounted in a more business-like manner.

Gosport.—The Hants Insurance Committee has received complaints that insured persons find difficulty in obtaining medicine at Gosport when they are more than a mile from a chemist's shop. The Clerk having explained the Commissioners' instructions as to "rural area," it was decided to request the Gosport District Committee to consider and report which, if any, parts of the town are a rural area within the meaning of Medical Benefit Regulation 39, and what part insured persons have difficulty in obtaining medicine.

Isle of Wight.—The Insurance Committee, at a meeting held on February 22, decided, on the proposition of a medical member, to direct the Medical Sub-committee to go into the matter of doctors recommending particular chemists under the Act, and to decide what steps should be taken to counteract this breach of the regulations.

Leicester.—A meeting of the Leicester and Leicestershire Chemists' Association was held at Leicester on February 20. Mr. A. D. Hearnshaw occupied the chair. A discussion took place on many questions under the National Insurance Act, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:

That this meeting of the Leicester and Leicestershire Chemists' Association views with regret and concern the unsatisfactory working of Clause 30 (1) National Health Insurance (Administration of Medical Benefits) Regulations, whereby it frequently occurs that in rural areas insured persons, in order to reach the surgery of their medical practitioner have actually to pass the door of a chemist on the drug panel, and are yet prohibited from obtaining their drugs and appliances from such a source by reason of the operation of the above regulation. Further than this, the meeting is of opinion that the obvious intention of this regulation, namely, the prevention of an unnecessary amount of inconvenience to an insured person is quite desirable, but that the intention would be best effected in those cases where insured persons, in attending the surgery of a practitioner, pass within reasonable proximity to the premises of a chemist on the drug panel, that such persons will be entitled to have their medicines and appliances from registered pharmacists in like manner to those in urban areas, and that no arrangements shall be entered into with the said practitioner to supply drugs and appliances in respect to such insured persons.

Liverpool chemists have received from the local Insurance Committee a letter authorising them to supply medical practitioners with necessary dressings for minor cases. These goods are to be ordered on a yellow prescription-form. When an insured person has required attention for an accident or wound, it has been found very awkward to keep the patient waiting for relief while someone ran to the chemist for the necessary dressings. The local hospitals refuse to attend to insured persons, and this new departure will be a great boon to the medical men in enabling them to carry a stock of dressings.

London.—Sub-Committees of the Medical and Pharmaceutical Committees for London met on March 4, when the formulary projected by the medical men was considered. This is now ready for printing, but so far the only pharmaceutical aid in compilation is that of the two pharmacist-medical men on the sub-committee. The matter has been relegated to a larger committee, but suggestions from the Pharmaceutical Committee have been asked.

Northampton.—A meeting of the Northampton Chemists' Association was held at Franklin's Hotel on February 25. Mr. F. C. Ashford (Vice-President) presided, and there were also present nine members and Mr. H. Rolfe (Hon. Secretary). Mr. Rolfe read a letter from Mr. W. McKinnell, thanking the members for electing him the first honorary member of the Association. Discussion then took place on the local working of the National Insurance Act, the principal points dealt with being (1) the necessity for keeping open late; (2) the extra clerical work imposed on chemists by the doctors obtaining permission to repeat prescriptions without writing them; and (3) the methods of filing prescriptions so that they could quickly be referred to. Opinion was generally expressed that for the present late hours are almost unavoidable, as people do not get away from doctors' surgeries until late in the evening. Members do not, however, view with satisfaction the prospect of keeping to their shops late on summer evenings. The need for keeping a list of prescriptions was also felt to entail a great amount of clerical work. Another matter dealt with was the tendency of doctors to recommend proprietary articles instead of prescribing B.P. drugs. An excuse put forward by the doctors was that many patients could not pronounce the chemical names of articles, but knew them by proprietary titles. Instances where this had been done were enumerated, and the liability of chemists in supplying B.P. formulæ under proprietary titles pointed out. Every pharmacist on the Northampton panel is now a member of the Association.

Norwich.—Mr. Percy Robinson presided at a meeting of the Norwich and District Pharmaceutical Association on February 26; twenty-six other members being present. The Secretary (Mr. W. J. Lacey) having reported on various matters, Mr. A. E. King (Divisional Secretary for Norwich) was co-opted a member of the Committee. The Secretary submitted, amongst other correspondence, a letter from the Insurance Commissioners stating "They had carefully considered the letter from the Norwich chemists and were not prepared to approve a minimum charge (even of a penny) for medicine not subject to a dispensing fee, and in their opinion the ordinary charges in the Tariff should be adhered to." After strong expressions of opinion and a large amount of grumbling from members at having to book halfpennies, they agreed to let the matter drop. The President reported that the proposed Norfolk Formulary is now in the hands of the Norfolk Doctors' Committee and the Committee was authorised to deal with it as soon as possible. The following resolution was adopted:

"That this Association strongly protests against the unfair condition by which the dispensing is limited in country districts, and urges the Standing Committee to do its utmost to remove the obvious injustice and the loss entailed thereby to the country chemists, and would suggest that in rural areas where a chemist lives within half a mile of the doctor the chemist shall have the whole of the dispensing under the Act.

The Secretary reported that he had received 50 half-crowns for the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee, and pointed out he would again approach those members who had not responded to his application. The following resolution was agreed to:

"In the event of a chemist not giving attendance for medicine on early-closing day or Bank Holiday he should make arrangements with some other chemist on the panel and either exhibit a notice to that effect on his shop door or leave word with someone on the premises as to where medicine can be obtained."

The Association rescinded the previous resolution fixing prices of Aqua dest, etc., up to 8 oz. at $\frac{1}{2}d.$, tinctures up to 2 dr., $1d.$, and infusions up to 4 oz., $\frac{1}{2}d.$, and agreed to abide strictly by the tariff. The following letter received from the clerk to the Norwich Insurance Committee was read:

"I beg to inform you that my Committee has received information that some chemists are displaying notices in their shops stating that medicines are provided free for insured persons. The statement seems to my Committee to be objectionable, as the insured persons are paying for the benefits they receive, and the words mentioned seem rather suggestive of an act of charity on the part of the chemists, even if they do not imply an element of pauperism on the part of the insured, and my Committee trusts that the members of your Association will see their way to avoid offences to insured persons.—Yours faithfully, F. G. HATCH, Clerk."

This led to some discussion, and admissions were made by members that they had used the word "free" without giving thought to such an interpretation. It was agreed not to continue this.

Nottingham.—A meeting of the Nottingham Pharmaceutical Association was held at the Victoria Station Hotel on March 5. The Vice-President (Mr. F. C. Carr) was in the chair. It was decided that the collection of subscriptions for the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance should be entrusted to the local Pharmacists' Insurance Committee. Mr. A. Eberlin, J.P., gave a lecture on "The Medical Benefit of the National Insurance Act," and the following took part in the discussion: Messrs. F. C. Carr, A. Middleton, E. W. Whitechurch, H. P. Middleton, T. Freeman, A. E. Beilley, and Alderman Cook.

Poole.—A meeting of the Dorset County Pharmacists' Association was held at the London Hotel, Poole, on February 26, and was well attended by chemists from Dorchester, Weymouth, Blandford, Sherborne, Wimborne, Parkstone, and Poole. Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed that Insurance dispensing is not working so smoothly as was expected. It was stated that some doctors decline to write prescriptions, and are doing their own dispensing. Complaints were also made that insured persons are being instructed by their medical attendant to take Insurance prescriptions to a particular chemist. In one case a chemist's own employé had been told to go to another chemist. Instances were given where medical men have made arrangements with one chemist for stock mixtures. The mile limit as regards dispensing was considered a great hardship in a county like Dorset. Under it the medical men are dispensing for one-half of the insured persons. Numerous cases were given where the chemist's shop is quite as near for the patient as the doctor's surgery, and in some cases the insured have to travel from half to one mile past a chemist's shop to procure their medicine from a doctor's surgery. This matter has been discussed by a deputation to the County Insurance Committee, and will be taken up

again. For the first month ending February 14, the Secretary (Mr. J. W. Cussons, of Dorchester) reported that 8,146 prescriptions, of a value of 206l. 12s. 7d., had been dispensed by chemists in Dorset. If the first month may be taken as an average for the year, the money in the Insurance Drug Fund will thus prove sufficient to pay the chemists' accounts. The proposed discontinuance of duplicate prescriptions was discussed, and the Insurance Committee is asked to arrange for the supply of duplicates as in the past, or, as an alternative, to increase the remuneration for dispensing. Mr. Cussons reported that it is still the intention of the Clerk to the Insurance Committee to hand over to him all the Dorset prescriptions for the Pharmaceutical Committee to check. The Clerk had been shown THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, wherein the matter is explained, and also the advertisements of Insurance Committees for assistants to check prescription prices. Notwithstanding this, the Clerk has informed Mr. Cussons that his Sub-Committee do not intend to spend any money on checking, and are going to hand over the prescriptions to the Pharmaceutical Committee "in accordance with regulations." A sub-committee was appointed to deal with the selection of suitable chemists on the District Committees. Every chemist in business in the county of Dorset is now a member of this Association.

Portsmouth.—Panel chemists met on Monday evening, March 3, to consider a further communication from the local Medical Committee with reference to Stock Mixtures. Mr. T. A. White presided. The members assumed such entirely opposite attitudes, and championed their respective sides so strongly, that the issue can only be predicted by "Wait and see." Mr. T. O. Barlow showed the Association its own reflection in "Xrayser's" summing-up, which he read from the C. & D., to which Mr. Atterbury replied that "had we tackled the matter earlier and given our verdict more publicity we should have had a greater following." Mr. T. J. Fox proposed, and Mr. G. W. Darling seconded, "That, while still deprecating stock mixtures, they would accept the six submitted by the Medical Committee if an undertaking be given that this is the limit." Mr. T. Postlethwaite maintained that no fresh point had been adduced to cause them to change their decision, and put forward an amendment that, "having reconsidered the question, they have nothing to add to their resolution of February 18." Mr. Rhodes seconded, but the amendment was lost and the proposition carried, in each case by eight to six. In view, however, of the fact that some present did not vote and that only about a third of the panel was represented, the Chairman consented to the proposition and amendment being circularised, so that a definite verdict may result.

Sheffield.—The Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society has agreed to the local Insurance Committee's suggested flat rates for emergency attendance and first dressings, of 1s. 6d. and 6d. respectively, until April 14. The Insurance Commissioners considered the rates excessive, but have approved.

Southampton.—A meeting of the Southampton Pharmacists' Association was held on March 4, Mr. W. Bates (President) in the chair. There were fifteen other members present and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. B. Wride). The President was thanked for the reception which he gave at the South-Western Hotel on February 19, and the President, in reply, said that with him the craft and brotherhood are at the top all the time. The Secretary reported having sent the tariff calculation card to every chemist on the panel who is a member of the Association.

Stoke-on-Trent.—The Insurance Committee is to employ a dispenser or chemist to check prescription charges at 26l. per annum. The Clerk was asked to get an explanation from a doctor on the panel who was alleged to have instructed an insured person to go to a specified chemist; also to ask a certain chemist not to refuse to take a bottle brought by an insured person, and charge him a deposit for another bottle.

Sussex (East).—The Insurance Committee is to allow 3d. extra to chemists for "Urgent" medicines supplied between 9 P.M. and 6 A.M.

Notes.

Mr. Bernard Lancaster, chemist and druggist, in business at Hillsborough, Sheffield, has been appointed to the vacancy at the Sheffield Town Hall for checking Insurance prescriptions.

The Middlesex Committee on March 3 approved of advance payments at the rate of 7d. for each insured person to the 511 doctors on the panel. The largest sum thus paid to one practitioner for the month was 62l. 12s. 5d. It was pointed out that this sum represented 2,147 insured persons, and a member said that if there was an epidemic that doctor might find his hands too full.

Pricing Problems.

Insurance prescriptions received by "C. & D." subscribers and submitted to us for pricing, because of exceptional or new points of interpretation. The principles upon which prescriptions are charged for are fully explained in the pricing-card supplied by the Book Department, "C. & D.," price 6d., by post 7d.

BLISTERS.—*Camul* (259/69) asks the charge for twenty blisters (size not stated). He says these take a long time to cut to prescribed form, and 3d. per square foot of emp. canthar. is absurd, but 4d. each overdoes it. [The proper charge is twenty threepences (5s.), 3d. being the charge for each piece of plaster irrespective of size if less than a square foot. The 4d. mentioned is a dispensing-fee, which does not apply here.]

CAPSULES.—*Tragacanth* (252/25) asks the price for prescription for twenty-four capsules of copaiba. Ten-minim capsules were sent. [According to Standing Committee's rule, charge 8d.—i.e., wholesale price—(10s. per 1,000=3d. for 24), plus a third, and dispensing-fee 4d.]

D. F. & Co.'s PREPARATIONS.—*Wait and See* (261/2) write: "We are requested by the doctors in this locality to stock for Insurance prescriptions a number of Duncan, Flockhart & Co.'s concentrated mixtures—about twenty in all. Can you tell us how these would have to be charged to the Committee? Would it be needful where a doctor ordered:

Mist. No. 62 (D. & F.)	...	...	3j.
Aq. ad	...	...	3viij.

for us to write the formula out on the prescription-form and price each ingredient and charge usual dispensing-fee, or would it be possible to charge it as 1 oz. of a proprietary preparation, adding 53½ to D. F. & Co.'s price for the concentrate? The formula for No. 62 mentioned above is:

Ammon. chlorid.	...	...	gr. x.
Ammon. carb.	...	...	gr. iij.
Ext. glycyrr. liq.	...	...	xxv.
Aq. chlorof. ad	...	...	3j.

If the former alternative has to be adopted, the work will not pay for the time consumed, and in the latter we suppose no dispensing-fee would be chargeable." [It is only necessary to charge for the ounce of concentrate, in accordance with the tariff rules, plus distilled water (if used) and the dispensing-fee of 2d. The total is 3½d.]

EXTRAS, CHARGING.—*C. L.* (256/38) asks: "When a proprietary article not in stock and not in usual retail demand locally is prescribed, will postages for letter ordering same (1d.), and for payment of same (1d.), and P.O. commission, and carriage of article (if charged in invoice) be allowed in addition to the 3½ per cent. on cost of article?" [No. By Clause 3 of the agreement between the chemist and the Insurance Committee the price has to be calculated according to the schedule, and no provision is made for the extras referred to. If the article is in one of the forms for which a dispensing-fee is provided, the fee should be charged.]

FARTHING RULE.—*W. B.* (260/32) has difficulty in believing that the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee has ruled that chemists must knock off farthings. [You will find the whole subject dealt with in the first editorial article of this issue.]

OILED SILK.—*Dewi Sanet* (259/17) asks how much he should charge for 14 by 8 in. [Charge at the rate of 30 sq. in. for 1d., that is 3½d. The correct amount is 30½d. which is not quite 3½d., so that on the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee's principle the charge is to go down.]

PIL. APERIENS.—*J. E. R.* (254/33) asks the charge for "Pil. aperiens vj." The Great Northern Hospital pills were supplied. [If prepared extemporaneously, charge for each ingredient, plus dispensing-fee. If dispensed from stock, the total charge is 3½d.]

TABLETS.—*C. L.* (256/38) asks: "Can tablets not on tariff list be charged at rate of the bottle of 100 plus 33½ per cent., or should the cost be calculated from a larger quantity?" [If the bulk of a 100 bottle is broken in order to dispense a prescription, the price of the 100 should be the basis of the charge. As to your third question, see "Up or Down," *C. & D.*, March 1, index folio 332.]

"TABLOID" ERGOTIN.—*D. M. D.* (202/30) wants to know the tariff price for a bottle of 1-grain tabloid ergotin which is listed at 18s per dozen, less 25 per cent. [The minimum retail price of these products is the list price, to which has to be added the dispensing-fee provided for tablets on p. 15 of the drug-tariff. This is in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee's ruling as to proprietaries.]

W. T. G. (260/10) asks if, in dispensing tabloid nuc. vom. co. mitte vj., he should charge 3d. for each ingredient. [No; charge at list-price rate plus 3d. dispensing-fee.]

THE FUTURE PRESCRIPTION-FORMS were discussed on Thursday, March 6, by representatives of the Insurance Commissioners and chemists. We understand that the Commissioners have had a fair number of suggestions for improvements upon the triplicate forms.

BIRTH.

PRYSOR-JONES.—On St. David's Day, 1913, the wife of David Prysor-Jones, chemist and druggist, 291 Park Road, Liverpool, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

DEVITT-OSBORNE.—At Westbourne Church, Glasgow, on February 27, by the Rev. Dr. Ross, D.D., assisted by the Rev. Hubert Simpson, M.A., Kenneth Hayward Devitt, Royal Field Artillery, son of Mr. Andrew Devitt, J.P., of "Herontye," East Grinstead, and Lewis & Peat, Mincing Lane, E.C., to Winifred Margaret, only child of the late Robert Osborne and Mrs. Osborne, 10 Princes Terrace, Glasgow, and Kippendavie House, Dunblane, Perthshire.

FOX-MAY.—At Woodford Congregational Church, by the Rev. T. Eynon Davies, on March 5, Ernest Kaye, younger son of Charles Edward Fox, Ph.C., J.P., of Westwood, Woodford Green, to Hilda Jessie, second daughter of Mr. David Paterson May, of The Craig, Monkham Drive, Woodford Green.

WALL-BAKER.—At St. Alphege Church, Greenwich, London, S.E., on March 1, Arthur T. Wall, eldest son of Mr. Thomas Wall, of Devonport, to Eleanor, eldest daughter of Mr. S. G. Baker, chemist and druggist, of Greenwich and Windsor.

DEATHS.

BANKS.—At Walworth, London, S.E., on February 25, Mr. Frederick Banks, chemist and druggist, 356 Walworth Road, S.E., aged sixty-nine. Mr. Banks, who had been in business in this district for forty-two years, was one of the old type of prescribing chemists, and had a high reputation among the inhabitants. It will be remembered that Mr. Banks, who was in the habit of keeping about 500l. in ready money on his premises, was attacked by burglars (*C. & D.*, 1910, I., 725) and robbed of 150l. He had completely recovered from this outrage.

BURTON.—At South Shields, on February 8, Mr. William Burton, chemist and druggist, formerly at 73 Newborough Street, Scarborough, aged seventy-four.

CONACHER.—At 6 Lindsay Terrace, Dowanhill, Glasgow, on March 3, Jane Paton, aged eighty-six, widow of Mr. David Conacher, Ph.C., late of Markinch and Glasgow.

CONYNGHAM.—At 40 Waterloo Road, Dublin, on March 2, Mary Frances, the beloved wife of Mr. Henry Conyngham, Ph.C. (Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson, Ltd.), second daughter of the late William Boulton, C.E., Stamford. The funeral took place at Mount Jerome Cemetery on March 5.

DOBSON.—At Gorleston-on-Sea, on February 21, Mr. G. Turner Dobson, Ph.C., 6 Britannia Terrace, Gorleston, aged fifty-nine.

GILES.—At 2 Alexandra Villas, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, on February 27, Wilma, only child of Mr. Arthur A. Giles, chemist, aged eight.

GOODWIN.—At Highworth, Wilts, on February 22, Mr. Medmor Goodwin, chemist and druggist, Market Place, Highworth, aged seventy. Mr. Goodwin passed the Modified examination in 1869.

HANDS.—On February 28, Mr. E. R. Hands, 152 High Street, Cheltenham, aged fifty-five. Mr. Hands was associated for many years with the business of his father, the late Mr. William Hands, Ph.C., and succeeded to it on his parent's death.

KINDER.—At Sumner Street, Glossop, on February 18, Mr. Henry Kinder, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-eight. Mr. Kinder was in business for a long time at 85 High Street West, Glossop. He had served on the Town Council, the Board of Guardians, and as overseer for the poor.

MARTIN.—At 2 Chisholm Road, East Croydon, on March 5, Mrs. Martin, mother of Mr. Harry Martin, Ph.C.

WAKEHAM.—On February 22, Mr. Charles Wakeham, chemist and druggist, Leslie House, Lady Street, Helston, Cornwall, aged eighty-one. Mr. Wakeham, together with his son, Mr. H. N. Wakeham, chemist and druggist, was in business at 1 Coinage Hall Street, Helston. He was a Justice of the Peace for the borough and warden of St. Michael's Church for over forty years.

WILLSON.—On February 28, Mr. Cornelius Willson, chemist and druggist, 452 Victoria Street, Great Grimsby, aged seventy-one. Mr. Willson was the oldest chemist in the town, and his active efforts on behalf of the public welfare made him widely known and respected by everybody in the borough. To pharmacists Mr. Willson was best known as President of the Grimsby and District Pharmacists' Association, to which position he was elected in 1907, after being Vice-President for several years previously. Although a strenuous fighter for public rights, and one who never hesitated in expressing his opinion, he was of a genial nature and especially good company. In addition to carrying on his pharmacy he acted as shipping agent for all the leading shipping lines. He had booked passages to Canada, Australia, and New Zealand for thousands of emigrants. It was his boast that he had never allowed an intending emigrant to forfeit his or her passage-money through inability to make the journey. His wife predeceased him about ten years ago. He leaves one daughter, who had acted as his house-keeper. The funeral took place at Scarthro Cemetery on March 4, when a large gathering marked the high esteem in which Mr. Willson was held. The many beautiful floral tributes included one from the Pharmacists' Association. On the back of the card attached to this was penned:

"Of soul sincere,
In action faithful and in honour clear;
Who broke no promise, served
No private end,
Who gained no title and who lost
No friend."

WILLS.—At Semley Road, Norbury, on February 25, Lilian Maud, daughter of Mr. G. S. V. Wills, of the Westminster College of Pharmacy, 402 Clapham Road, London, S.W., aged thirty-one.

WILLS PROVEN.

MR. JAMES RUSSELL, 7 Kilburn Place, Newport, Dundee, chemist and druggist, who died on November 23, left estate valued at £2,681/16s.

MR. EDWARD GRISBROOK, 1 Beaumont Villas, New Windsor, Berks, retired chemist, who died on December 28, left estate of the gross value of £2,242/19s. 3d., of which £1,736/15s. 7d. is net personalty.

MR. THEODORE DAVID LICHTENSTEIN, 39 Sheriff Road, West Hampstead, N.W., and of the Caramel Works, Silvertown, analytical chemist, who died on October 23, left estate of the gross value of £1,411/10s. 8d., with net personalty nil.

MR. JOHN PROCTOR, 25 East Parade, Newcastle-on-Tyne, retired chemist and druggist, who died on January 30, left estate of the gross value of £10,659/10s. 8d., of which £3,379/16s. 9d. is net personalty. Probate of his will, dated January 19, 1912, with a codicil of May 1, 1912, has been granted to Mr. George Henry Proctor, 184 Portland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, chemist, and Mr. George Elder, 8 Grainger Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, solicitor. Mr. Proctor left £50/ to George Elder for the executorship; to his sister, Emma Proctor, the income for life from 105 shares in the Canadian Pacific Railway, and, subject to her interest, he left the said shares to various local charities; fifty-one such shares to Amy Dodds; to Margaret Patterson, of Osborne Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne, his dwelling-house, 12 Lefroy Street; to George Henry Proctor his premises 72 and 74 Westgate Road; thirty 10/ preference shares in the Tyneside Tramways, Ltd., to Elizabeth Proctor, daughter of the late William Proctor; 100 preference and twenty ordinary shares in Meggeson & Co., Ltd., to Anne Octavia Proctor; his premises 25 East Parade to his friend, L. Maud Deacon; one year's wages to his servant, Margaret Octon; and the residue of his estate to his said sister, Emma Proctor.

WINTER SESSION.

Reporters, and Secretaries of Associations whose meetings are not open to reporters, are requested to send their reports to the Editor not later than the Wednesday following the meeting.

Cheltenham.—Mr. L. L. Stroud presided at a meeting of the Cheltenham, Gloucester and District Pharmacists' Association held at Cheltenham on February 27, when seventeen other members were present. A vote of condolence with the widow of Mr. E. R. Hands was passed. Mr. J. Gibbs, jun. (Tewkesbury), and Mr. Hathaway (Lydney) were elected members. A County Insurance Committee was elected, viz.: Messrs. W. H. Hill, C. H. James, F. T. Palmer, H. Miller, and T. T. Dolman, with the Divisional Secretaries of the county. Mr. Stroud then gave as a presidential address a paper on "The History of Pharmacy from 1868 to the Present Time," and it was arranged that the paper be printed for circulation among the members of the Association. The sum of 2/ 2s. was voted to the Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund for the year. A whist-party is to be given in April.

Chemical Society.—The officers proposed for election at the annual meeting on Friday, March 14, are as follows: *President*, Professor W. H. Perkin, Se.D, etc., Oxford University, to succeed Professor Frankland, who becomes a Vice-President for life. Professor H. Brereton Baker and Dr. Horace T. Brown are proposed as *Vice-Presidents*, to succeed Dr. M. O. Forster and Dr. Archibald Liversidge. Dr. Brown is to be succeeded in the *Foreign Secretaryship* by Professor A. W. Crossley, whose place as Senior Secretary will be taken by Dr. Samuel Smiles, while Dr. J. C. Philip, M.A., of the Royal College of Science, will be Junior Secretary. Dr. Philip is at present a member of the Council of the Society. The proposed new *Councillors* are Dr. George Barger, Mr. E. J. Bevan, Professor F. G. Donnan, F.R.S., and Dr. K. J. P. Orton, who are to succeed Professor Bone, Mr. A. R. Ling, Dr. A. McKenzie, and Dr. Philip.

Dewsbury.—The annual meeting of the Dewsbury and District Pharmacists' Association was held at Dewsbury on March 3. Councillor A. B. Barker (Heckmondwike) presided over an attendance of eleven members. On the motion of Mr. Gledhill, seconded by Mr. Broadhead, the Association congratulated Mr. Pickard on his election as President of the P.A.T.A. The Secretary's annual report dealt with the work of the year. It was adopted, and the Secretary (Mr. R. J. H. Day) was highly complimented on the literary character which it displayed. The Treasurer (Mr. Blakeley) reported a balance in hand of 3/ 7s. 8d. This report was also adopted and Mr. Blakeley was thanked for his services. Mr. G. N. Gutteridge was elected *President*, Mr. Pickard was elected *Senior Vice-President*, and Mr. Blakeley was elected *Second Vice-President*. Mr. Day was re-elected *Secretary* and Mr. Butterfield was elected *Treasurer* in place of Mr. Blakeley. The members then discussed Insurance Act topics.

Edinburgh.—A meeting of the Edinburgh Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on February 26. Mr. Henry Stout presided, and Mr. Edward J. Brown, Ph.C., delivered a lantern-lecture on *Wonders in the Plant World*.

Isle of Wight.—A meeting of the Isle of Wight Pharmacists' Association was held in Ryde Town Hall on Wednesday, February 26. Mr. H. H. Pollard, J.P., presiding over an attendance of eighteen. The Secretary (Mr. H. J. Sadler) reported on the district meeting held at Southampton on February 19. Mr. C. A. Smith (Ventnor) and Mr. H. W. Barford (who has recently been elected to the Island Insurance Committee, *vice* Mr. E. W. Pollard, resigned) were added to the Organisation Committee. Having received from all pharmacists in the Island, with the exception of two, a return of the number of Insurance prescriptions dispensed, and the amount of the bills for same, the Secretary was able to produce interesting figures of the first five weeks' working and to go into the prospects of discounting, prospects which under normal conditions seem remote.

Leeds.—A meeting of the Leeds Chemists' Association was held at the Grand Central Hotel, Leeds, on March 5. The President (Mr. S. R. Mundell) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. Mr. M. E. Murray gave a paper on *Pharmacy and the Public*, in the course of which he said the National Insurance Act has given a valuable fillip to pharmacy, and would give it recognition in the country and bring it more before the public in its true light as a skilled profession. Referring to the matter of difficulty of securing competent apprentices, the speaker said the National Insurance Act would ensure a better chance of getting apprentices thoroughly

trained. He quoted an article which had appeared in the "Daily Mail" that day, attacking the chemist as well as the National Insurance Act, and expressed the hope that someone in authority would reply to it. In the discussion which followed it was stated that a doctor had sent three prescriptions in succession for the same mixture, but had given the name of a different wholesale house each time, which had necessitated the chemist getting a special supply of the drugs for each patient. Mr. Murray was thanked for his paper. Mr. Roberts was elected a representative of the Association on the Leeds Chamber of Trade.

Liverpool.—A meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association was held at the Royal Institution on February 26 to discuss the *Difficulties in the Chemist's Everyday Life*. Mr. G. R. Tharratt, the Vice-President, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. Mr. Harold Wyatt, in opening the discussion, stated that one of the great difficulties which confronted chemists was caused by the nurses, who demanded a commission upon goods which they bought. One way of stopping that practice was to report them to their matrons or their patients. This method was successful, but had the effect of reducing the chemist's trade. The doctor also, especially the inexperienced one, was about the most fastidious of customers. Often overdoses were ordered, and surely the least a chemist could expect when he rectifies and calls the doctor's attention to such mistakes is gratitude. The errand-boy problem is also a source of worry to the chemist, and is difficult to solve. Mr. L. Moreton Parry referred to a circular issued by a firm of chemists *re* Insurance dispensing, and hoped the Association would take steps to get the circular withdrawn. He also referred to misleading announcements made by some pharmacists that they are the only dispensers in particular districts under the National Insurance Act. Such methods are not likely to enhance the reputation of those chemists, and can only result in injury to the craft as a whole. Insurance difficulties were discussed by Messrs. Hirst, Hardy, H. H. Marsden, P. H. Marsden, Hawley, Huxtable, Wallbridge, and Inman. Mr. W. H. Saunders, as a wholesaler, spoke on the relations of the commercial traveller to the chemist, and compared the state of things in England with Canada and the United States. With regard to the local Association, he advocated that refreshments be supplied at the ordinary meetings.

London.—The annual meeting of the London branch of the National Union of Assistant Pharmacists was held at the London College on March 2. Mr. Kirby presiding over an attendance of eleven. The following officers were elected: *Chairman*, Mr. V. Bottomley; *Vice-Chairman*, Mr. E. Hill; *Committee*, Messrs. Kirby, Colston, Shelley, Meacock, C. Terry Holloway, Downie, Mattock, and Fouracre. The usual monthly meeting was arranged for April 6, but on the first Sundays in May, June, and July outings will be held instead. Resolutions on the following subjects were adopted, to be sent to the annual general meeting on Whit Monday: (1) The recognition of a definite minimum wage for assistants. (2) The recognition of definite maximum hours for same. (3) That the label on all medicaments dispensed to National Insurance prescriptions should bear the initials of qualified supervising chemist.

London Assistants.—At the meeting of the Chemists' Assistants' Association, held at 73 Newman Street, London, W., on February 27, a paper was read by Mr. C. W. Gosling on *Bee-keeping*. This was followed by one on *The Investigation of Phosphorus Preparations*, by Mr. J. D. Kienel. The last contained the results of some experiments on phosphorated oil. Mr. Kienel considered the B.P. product did not keep well, and the object of his work was to find a solvent which would produce a more permanent result. He used almond oil and liquid petroleum, with additional agents such as ol. limonis, ol. menth. pip., etc. These were examined at varying periods, and the amount of free and combined phosphorus determined. With almond oil the preparations in all cases were found to have changed, but with liq. paraffin it was practically unchanged even after twelve months. Both the lecturers were warmly thanked for their papers.

London (N.).—A meeting of the North London Pharmacists' Association was held on February 27, when Mr. R. R. Bennett, of University College, gave an address on *Science and Criminology*, illustrating it with many interesting lantern slides. The lecturer emphasised the value of close observance and intelligent deduction, and in referring to the development of physical science called attention to the value of wireless telegraphy, which he compared with the interest excited by the telegraph when first used in assisting the arrest of criminals. After mention of anthropometric and finger-print methods of identification, he showed the comparative value of microscopical blood-tests, and why so much importance is laid on that known as the precipitin test, incidentally showing how valueless human testimony can become. A comparison of hair with that of animals

and of vegetable fibres proved very interesting. Following this were remarks on the detection of poisons and the adulteration of foods. A few remarks by the Chairman (Mr. J. Noble) followed, and then a vote of thanks to the lecturer was passed.

London (S.E.).—At a meeting of the South Eastern of London Pharmacists' Association on February 26, Mr. Herbert A. Mills, Ph.C., gave a lecture on *Colour Photography*. Mr. Price was in the chair. The lecture was illustrated by lantern-slides, and included particulars of the new Raydex three-colour process. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Mills.

Peterborough.—The annual meeting of the Peterborough Association of Pharmacists was held at the Grand Hotel on February 27. It was presided over by Mr. J. W. Bodger. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. E. Noble) reported a successful year, and the following officers were elected: *President*, Mr. J. G. Sturton; *Vice-Presidents*, Messrs. B. J. Kent (Boston), T. J. Calcutt (Peterborough), J. M. Parker (Market Deeping); *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. H. E. Noble; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. T. J. Calcutt; *Hon. Solicitor*, Mr. W. H. Sturton; *Hon. Auditor*, Mr. Frank A. Sturton; *Council*, Messrs. C. Bayley (Uppingham), Bullivant (Boston), Davis (March), W. R. Girling (Wisbech), H. S. Turner (St. Ives), J. W. Hall, J. W. Bodger, and F. W. Whitwell (Peterborough).

Royal Society of Medicine.—A meeting of the Section of the History of Medicine was held on March 5 at 1 Wimpole Street, London, W., the transactions being of more than usual interest. The first communication, by Mr. Joseph Offord, was on *The Hurst Papyrus*. This papyrus, which was given by an Egyptian peasant to an American excavator, is a similar work to the well-known Ebers papyrus. The two papyri have probably been compiled from the same source, but in some respects the Hurst papyrus differs from that of Ebers. It was compiled about 2400 B.C., and consists of a collection of recipes for the cure of diseases. The chief novelties in the Hurst scroll are remedies for the treatment of the fingers and toes and a method causing fractured bones to unite in three days. Mr. Offord also gave a paper, *Restrictions upon Circumcision under the Romans*. As is well known, the practice of circumcision was prohibited by several Roman Emperors, probably to check an increase in the number of Jews. Mr. Offord gave an account of a newly discovered papyrus, which gave the regulations regarding circumcision during the time of the Roman occupation of Egypt. The lecturer also showed on the screen a picture of a temple carving, dated about 3000 B.C., showing circumcision being performed, the point about this being that the rite by no means originated with the Jews. The next paper was by Mr. H. Barlow-English, on *Herbals*, illustrated with valuable specimens of the books referred to. The first was an anonymous herbal of small size, dated 1525, and variously known as Banks' or Walter Carey's herbal. The lecturer has traced seventeen editions of this rare book, of which fourteen are in various libraries in this country. The next is "The Grete Herball," dated 1526, which was shown to be a translation from a French herbal, which in its turn came through the German and Latin, it having been proved to be the production originally of Bartholomew, of Vienna, whose MSS., dated 1478, are still extant. Then followed Turner's Herball, dated 1551, in three parts, and devoted to identifying the plants named in Dioscorides. Henry Lyte's "Newe Herball" appeared in 1578. This was a translation through the French of the "Cruydeboeck" of Rembert Dodoens. Next was Lobel's herbal, which is often credited as the product of the Plantin Press, of Antwerp, but the lecturer showed that this is a misconception. John Gerard's herbal appeared in 1597. It is, the author stated, the work of a Dr. Priest, who died before it was published, and Gerard, rearranging the matter, credited the authorship to himself. Parkinson's herbal was published in 1640, and was the first herbal with English woodcuts. Dr. Leonard Guthrie next read a paper on *Lady Sedley's Receipt-book*, the book being on view at the meeting. Lady Sedley was the wife of Sir Charles Sedley, a fashionable profligate and friend of Charles II. Their daughter Catherine, mistress of James II., was created Countess of Dorchester. The receipt-book contains 124 medical receipts, many credited to well-known doctors, such as Sydenham and Stephens. The lecturer had a good deal to say regarding domestic receipt-books of mediæval times, and mentioned that Lady Arundel is stated to have used three score of sheep-skins in one year for plasters which she prescribed for her poorer neighbours. The last paper was by Mr. J. D. Marshall, on *Old Drug Pots*. Mr. Marshall, who is managing director of John Bell & Croyden, Ltd., and whose collection of pharmacy pots is well known, gave a history of these vessels. He had a number of lantern-slides and also over a hundred specimens of the pots, some being sent specially for the occasion by Mr. W. Maskew, Ph.C., Clacton-on-Sea. The paper was much appreciated, and considerable interest was taken in the collection of pots shown.

Society of Chemical Industry.

London Section.

At the meeting held in the Chemical Society's rooms, Burlington House, on March 3, Professor W. R. E. Hodgkinson, Ph.D., the new Chairman, presided. His is one of the best-known figures that are to be seen at Burlington House, for he has been connected with the Chemical Society since 1879, and has served two terms on the Council of that Society. His name is also familiar to those who learned their practical chemistry by the aid of "Valentin," the fifth edition of which he edited when he was at the Royal College of Chemistry and School of Mines, in which he was an Assistant Professor before he went to the Ordnance College, Woolwich. Professor Hodgkinson was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Sheffield, whence he went to the Royal



PROFESSOR W. R. E. HODGKINSON.

School of Mines and the Royal College of Chemistry as Jodrell Scholar, and afterwards studied at Würzburg University, where he graduated as Ph.D. He returned to South Kensington as private assistant to the late Sir Edwin Frankland, K.C.B., afterwards becoming the principal demonstrator under him and Sir T. Edward Thorpe. He is a prolific writer, and has done much experimental work, especially in regard to the chemistry of explosives.

CHINESE ANTIMONY.—The first paper, by Dr. W. R. Schoeller, dealt with analytical details of Chinese antimony ores. Crude antimony is obtained from high-grade ores in the province of Hu-nan by liqation. The Chinese estimate the value of ores by passing 100 lb. through the actual process, and describe the ores according to the amount of crude obtained. These ores usually run about 58 per cent. of antimony. The author frequently noticed in the assay of crude antimony that the antimony slightly exceeded in amount that required by the formula Sb_2S_3 . This result was attained by determination of the sulphur by three different methods. The author suggests that the presence of oxide accounts for this deficiency of sulphur. The liquitated sulphide of antimony, unlike stibnite, is strongly attacked by bitartrate solution.

NOTES ON THERMOMETRY was the title of the next paper, by Mr. J. H. Coste. The author referred to the following errors to which mercury in glass thermometers is liable. Those peculiar to the combination of mercury and glass: (1) deviation of scale from hydrogen scale; (2) temporary depression of zero after heating. These errors, to a certain extent, compensate one another between 0° and 100°. The composition of various glasses used in modern thermometry is given. Errors proper to each individual thermometer are (3) incorrect value or position of the fundamental interval; (4) inequality of bore of capillary. Other errors, partly dependent on the glass used and partly on the construction of the instrument, are (5) dilation of the bulb caused by the internal pressure of the mercury column; (6) external pressure on bulb. Errors dependent on method of using are (7) stem correction, and (8) lag. The precautions necessary for obtaining various orders of accuracy were indicated, and the use for many purposes of short thermometers is recommended as reducing the serious error in corrections for exposed columns at high temperatures. The use of thermo-electric thermometers for temperatures above 300° was advised. There was a good discussion in which Mr. Powell (a London glass-maker) and a thermometer-maker took part.

A long paper followed by Mr. A. Egerton on "The Heat-test on Gun-cotton."

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., March 6.

THERE is no material alteration in business conditions in the chemical and drug markets, the general tone being quiet, and with a comparative absence of features. Interest again centres in cod-liver oil, prices for which show a further advance owing to continued poor fishing results. Citric acid is again higher by $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. Morphine has been reduced $3d.$ per oz. by makers, although at the close opium is nominally firmer in Smyrna. Cocaine is weak, with cheap sellers from second-hands. Quinine is quiet, but firm; the negotiations at Amsterdam are still taking place, but the agreement has not yet been signed. Saffron is steady, and Chinese soy cheaper. Turpentine, shellac, cocoa-butter, arsenic, and ammonia sulphate are all more or less lower. Copper sulphate is firmer. Essential oils present few changes. Star anise is steady. Lemon oil is irregular and easier in some quarters. Japaneese peppermint oil to arrive is dearer. The principal changes have been as under:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Balsam (Canada)	Copper sulphate	Arsenic	Aloes (Socotrine)
Citric acid	Peppermint oil (Jap.)	Cocaine (sec. hands.)	Ammonia sulphate
Cod-liver oil		Prussiate of potash	Cocoa-butter
Sarsaparilla		Senega (c.i.f.)	Elemi
grey and Lima Jamaica		Soy	Morphine
		Turpentine	salts
			Shellac

Cablegrams.

BERGEN, March 6.—Weather continues stormy, and the cod-fishing is but small. Market is still rising, and the latest quotation for finest medicinal non-freezing Norwegian oil is 96s. 6d. per barrel c.i.f. terms.

NEW YORK, March 5.—Business in drugs is active. Opium is 20c. lower at \$5.80 per lb. for druggists'. Peppermint oil in tins is steady at \$2.80. Spearmint oil is firmer at \$4.85. Hydrastis (golden seal) is quiet at \$3.90. Mexican sarsaparilla has advanced to 15c., and mandrake (podophyllum) root is firm at 6 $\frac{1}{2}c.$; both cascara sagrada and copaiba are unchanged.

London Markets.

AMBERGRIS.—We understand that a piece of ambergris weighing about 3,000 oz. has recently been disposed of by a Mincing Lane merchant to various purchasers, the bulk of it going to a Continental house.

ANTIMONY is easy, Chinese crude offering at 12l. 10s. for prompt and 12l. c.i.f. for April-May.

ARSENIC is 10s. per ton easier, best white Cornish powdering offering in ton lots at 20s. in barrels and 21s. in kegs, and larger quantities at less.

BALSAM, CANADA, is dearer at 4s. 6d. per lb. net on spot in cases.

BERGAMOT OIL.—Quotations for prompt shipment vary from 25s. 6d. to 28s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f., according to shipper.

CASTOR OIL.—Hull make is quoted at 29*l.* for firsts; March-June at 28*l.* 10*s.* and July-December at 27*l.* 10*s.* per ton, barrels included, usual terms, delivered free on wharf, London; pharmaceutical quality is 50*s.* per ton over the price of firsts, and oil in tins and cases 50*s.* per ton over the respective price in barrels.

CITRIC ACID is selling in small lots from second-hands at 1*s.* 8*d.*, but neither English nor foreign makers are keen sellers, and their prices are from 1*s.* 8½*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.*

CINCHONA.—The shipments from Java to Europe during February amounted to 1,565,000 Amst. lb., against 922,000 Amst. lb. in 1912 and 946,000 Amst. lb. in 1911. During the first two months the shipments have been 2,872,400 Amst. lb., against 1,560,000 Amst. lb. in 1912 and 2,367,000 Amst. lb. in 1911.

COCA-LEAVES.—The exports from Java to Europe during February amounted to 2,170 packages.

COCAINE.—The makers continue to quote 7*s.* per oz. for hydrochloride on contract quantities, but second-hands offer at the easier rate of 6*s.* 6*d.*

COD-LIVER OIL is much dearer, the stormy weather and continued poor fishing results having led in several instances to the withdrawal of quotations by leading agents, or to the substitution of the nominal figure of 100*s.* per barrel, which, of course, may become operative if people want finest guaranteed genuine Lofoten oil. Previous to the advance a fair quantity changed hands on Friday last at 85*s.* per barrel c.i.f., and this week 90*s.* has been paid. The fact that our Bergen correspondent cables 96*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f. at the close shows the actual state of the market in Norway. A private cable on Wednesday reported an excited market in Norway, quotations being withdrawn. Last season's oil is now quoted 80*s.* to 85*s.* c.i.f.

Our Bergen correspondent writes on March 3 that the cod-fishing is making but slow progress, principally owing to the bad weather ruling. To-day's report give the following figures:

Lofoten.

	1911	1912	1913
Catch of cod (millions) ...	2.1	4.6	1.3
Yield of cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	3,005	3,658	793
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.) ...	4,400	489	233

Whole Country.

	1911	1912	1913
Catch of cod (millions) ...	7.4	20.7	10.6
Yield of cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	5,501	18,000	8,100
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.) ...	2,600	3,700	2,800

The oil market is very firm, and finest *new* non-congealing Lofoten cod-liver oil is certainly not obtainable below 89*s.* (See cable for latest prices.)

COPPER SULPHATE is firmer, the usual brands offering for prompt delivery at 23*l.* 5*s.* to 23*l.* 10*s.*, and forward at 23*l.* 10*s.* to 23*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

CREAM OF TARTAR is firm, especially for prompt delivery, at 89*s.* to 90*s.* per cwt. for 98 per cent. and 87*s.* to 88*s.* for 95 per cent. powder.

ELEM.—The *Aki Maru* has brought 135 cases from Manila, and 60 of these were offered at auction to-day, 25 being disposed of at from 42*s.* to 43*s.* 6*d.* for good pale Manila firsts, at 38*s.* for good seconds, and 35*s.* for thirds, these prices being from 6*s.* to 8*s.* cheaper.

LEMON OIL.—Quotations remain wide and irregular, with several agents quoting easier rates, others being unchanged; prices for prompt shipment are from 11*s.* 9*d.* to 13*s.* per lb. c.i.f., and on spot at from 12*s.* 3*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*, the latter being for tip-top oil. A Palermo report dated March 1 states that

"What we had foreseen in our last report came to pass even before it could logically have been expected; in fact, at the beginning of this week the market began to decline from the highest prices to which it had risen, and the liquidation and deliveries of the February part of contracts passed off fairly easily, as was the case at the end of January. All this has strengthened once more the conviction of those who look at the position with unprejudiced eyes that the advance of the last days, like that of the middle of January, was forced and purely artificial, and that until foreign consumers with their fresh requirements interpose with a more or less active demand future fluctuations cannot be but speculative, forced by bulls and of short duration. It has become apparent that our market

cannot sustain itself without the contribution of a real and steady demand from consumers abroad, and to-day the market has closed easier, it being less difficult to find goods, with sellers fairly abundant and buyers extremely reserved. To-day the market stands at about the same prices which were quoted at the beginning of February before the last advance set in.

LIME OIL.—The *Trent* has brought 41 packages from Dominica.

LITHOPONE.—A large business has been done for delivery over the first half of next year at higher rates. Supplies are difficult to obtain for delivery this year, the value being 13*l.* to 14*l.* c.i.f. London.

MENTHOL.—In the drug-auction three cases of Suzuki, rather dullish bold crystals, sold at from 28*s.* 4*d.* to 28*s.* 7*d.* per lb. without reserve. Privately values remain unchanged, the sales including Suzuki, combined with oil, for September-October shipment at 30*s.* c.i.f. The arrivals comprise 20 cases from Yokohama and 10 from Kobe to London; also 30 cases *in transit*; of Japanese *peppermint* oil the arrivals include 50 cases to London and 70 cases *in transit*.

MORPHINE.—The makers' prices current for March intimate a reduction of 3*d.* per oz. in morphine salts, the official quotation for hydrochloride powder being 10*s.* 9*d.* per oz. net. Second-hand sellers quote 10*s.* 4*d.* to 10*s.* 4½*d.* for small lots, but quantity has changed hands at 10*s.*

OILS (FIXED).—*Linseed* closes steady at 24*s.* 3*d.* in pipes and 24*s.* 9*d.* in barrels. *Coconut* is steady at 44*s.* for Ceylon, and at 47*s.* for Cochon on spot. *Cottonseed* is quiet at 27*s.* 3*d.* for *crude* on spot, 28*s.* for ordinary pale refined and 31*s.* for sweet refined. Lagos *Palm* oil is 32*s.* 3*d.* in Liverpool and 35*s.* on spot. *Palm-kernel* oil is dearer at 39*s.* 6*d.* for March delivery f.o.b. Hamburg. China *Wood* oil is 30*s.* on spot and 30*s.* 6*d.* for March-April delivery. *Petroleum* is quiet at 8½*d.* for Russian, 8½*d.* for American, and 9½*d.* for water-white.

OLIVE OIL.—Advices from Italy continue to be of a pessimistic tenor as regards new crop, and prices there are tending upwards. On the spot, agents offer B.P. at between 4*s.* 5*d.* and 4*s.* 9*d.*, the latter being of good quality, and for Italian edible oils from 5*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 3*d.* per gal. is quoted as to quality.

OPUM.—Cables have been received from Smyrna reporting frost in the Interior, the news coming from what is considered a trustworthy source. Prices on this report have been marked up 6*d.* in Smyrna, but sellers are abstaining from offering pending further reports and confirmation. The spot value of good druggists' quality is 20*s.* per lb., and in soft shipping no business is reported. Rather more demand is reported for Persian, the spot values of which are from 19*s.* to 22*s.* as to test.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on February 21 that there has been a good inquiry for opium this week, chiefly for American and also for the Continent. Some 40 cases in all changed hands, but on inspection 18 cases were returned, not being up to the conditions sold. Prices are to-day from 16*s.* 6*d.* to 18*s.*, as to quality, but as news of heavy damages to the crop has come down from the Interior our market is again strengthening, and very likely will advance. The arrivals in Smyrna amount to 2,232 cases, against 1,110 cases at same date last year.—A Constantinople correspondent writes on March 1 that the sales for the week amount to six cases "softs" at p*tr.*s. 245 to 275, and three Malatias at p*tr.*s. 250. Market is without animation on account of the absence of sellers and foreign buyers, and there is only a small demand for native speculation. The growing crops are almost everywhere covered by snow, and an opinion cannot be given as to whether damage has been sustained until the snow melts.

ORANGE OIL is steady, Sicilian *sweet* offering at 11*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.* per lb. c.i.f.

PEPPERMENT OIL.—Spot prices of Japanese dementholised are unaltered at 6*s.* 11*d.* for Kobayashi and 6*s.* 10½*d.* for Suzuki; to arrive higher prices have been paid, including Kobayashi for February-April shipment at 7*s.* to 7*s.* 5*d.* c.i.f. American tin oil of good brands is firm at 12*s.* from first-hands, and for *Todd's* crystal white 13*s.* nett to arrive is quoted; H.G.H. is 14*s.* 9*d.* ex warehouse, London terms to arrive. In the drug-auction five cases

Suzuki dementholised sold without reserve at from 6s. 8d. to 6s. 9d., being cheap, and for five cases protected Kobayashi offered a pocket bid of 7s. was refused.

POTASSIUM IODIDE.—The exports from Japan during December amounted to 9,940 kin. The exports for the year 1912 were 64,968 kin, against 53,996 kin in 1911 and 55,042 kin in 1910; of *crude iodine* the exports in December were 2,337 kin, and for the year 1912 they were 17,094 kin, against 14,084 and 13,110 kin in 1911 and 1910.

QUICKSILVER.—Second-hands continue to quote 7l. 5s., while it is doubtful what would buy Spanish from first-hands.

QUININE is firm but quiet at from 10d. to 10½d. per oz. for the usual brands of German sulphate, and at 10d. for Java. As regards the bark-quinine agreement, it is stated that the negotiations are still taking place in Amsterdam, and that there is every possibility of the contract being signed during the next fortnight. Responsible people behind the scenes regard the present as a time to buy quinine rather than to sell.

The landings in London during February amounted to 341,984 oz. and the deliveries 256,928 oz., leaving a stock on February 28 of 3,720,464 oz., as compared with 3,960,960 oz. in 1912.

SAFFRON is steady at from 48s. to 50s. per lb. net for B.P. qualities.

SENEGA is offered to arrive at the easier rate of 2s. 7d. c.i.f.

SHELLAC is lower, with fair TN orange quoted 79s. on spot, free AC garnet at 78s., and GAL at 68s. per cwt. Arrival market for TN is nominal; March-April shipment of AC garnet is quoted 79s., and GAL at 68s. c.i.f. Futures are also lower, the moderate sales including March delivery at 80s. to 79s. 6d. to 78s.; May, 81s. to 79s. 6d.; and August, 83s. 6d. to 83s. to 82s.

SOY.—With arrivals taking place, prices are easier, Seulooing offering at 1s. 7d. per gal. spot; no Wochan is available.

SPICES.—At auction only small supplies were offered, including 269 bags fair to good washed rough Cochin *Ginger*, which were bought in at from 33s. to 35s. Of *Cloves* only six bags West Indian offered and sold at 9½d. for small dark mixed headless. Privately Zanzibar are quiet, fair offering at 10½d.; to arrive sellers quote January-March at 10d., September-December of new crop at 6½d., and October-December 6½d. c.i.f.; for delivery sellers quote March-May at 10½d., and June-August 10½d. At auction 39 bags Singapore *Pepper* were bought in at 5½d. for greyish and 47 bags Lampong at 4½d.; privately spot demand is quiet, the value of fair Singapore being 5½d., and arrival market is firmer with a fair business doing, including Singapore for March-April and April-June shipment at 4½d. to 4½d. c.i.f.; *White pepper* was not offered at auction; privately sellers quote Singapore on spot at 8½d. for fair and Muntok at 8½d., the latter having been sold at 8½d. c.i.f. for February-March shipment; Singapore for April-June shipment is quoted 8½d. *Mace* was steady at auction, 10 packages West Indian selling at 2s. 5d. for good, 2s. 3d. for fair, and 1s. 11d. for broken; 10 cases fair flat Java were bought in at 2s. 7d.

TARTARIC ACID is unaltered at 1s. 0½d. for English and 1s. 0½d. per lb. for foreign.

TURPENTINE has declined a further 9d. on the week, closing at 31s. per cwt. for American on spot and 31s. 3d. for April.

London Drug-auctions.

Commercial Sale-rooms,

Mincing Lane, E.C., March 6.

Moderate supplies of first and second hand drugs were offered at auction, but the demand was slow, and only a small proportion sold. Cape aloes was not offered in sufficient quantity to test the market, and low rates were accepted for fair Socotrine in kegs without reserve. Sumatra benzoin was in quiet demand at steady rates, and buchu failed to sell in auction, although privately a good export business has been done. Balsam tolu is steady, and for cardamoms fully previous rates were paid. Chiretta has been in rather more demand at unaltered rates. *Dragon's-blood* of good reboiled quality is absent. New

elemi suffered a substantial decline. Gamboge is neglected, and honey was offered in unappreciable quantities. Ipecacuanha brought full prices for Matto Grosso, but quality was better than usual. Lime-juice sold at firm rates, and a fair quantity of orange-peel was disposed of at about steady prices. Rhubarb is neglected, and for grey Jamaica sarsaparilla an irregular advance of 2d. was paid, while Lima was much dearer. Common Tinnevely senna sold steadily, and in beeswax a small business was done at previous prices. The following table shows the quantity of goods offered and sold:

The next drug sales will be held on Wednesday, March 19, the view day being Tuesday.

Offered Sold		Offered Sold	
Aloes—		Kamala	4 ... 0
Cape	7 ... 7	Kola	2 ... 0
Curaçao	27 ... 7	Lemon oil... (cprs.)	4 ... 0
Socotrine	48 ... 18	Lime-juice	22 ... 9
Zanzibar (cases)	24 ... 6	Liquorice-powder	7 ... 0
Ammoniacum	15 ... 5	Liquorice-root	20 ... 20
Anise oil (star) ...	7 ... 0	Lycopodium	10 ... 0
Annatto-seed	30 ... 0	Mastich	3 ... *2
Apricot-kernels ...	29 ... 29*	Menthol	3 ... 3
Asafetida	35 ... 1	Musk	3 ... 0
Balsam peru	2 ... 0	Musk-seed (tin) ...	1 ... 1
Balsam tolu	11 ... 0	Myrrh	85 ... 6
Bay oil	1 ... 0	Nux vomica	195 ... 0
Benzoin—		Olibanum	149 ... 0
Palembang	11 ... 0	Opium	1 ... 0
Sumatra	147 ... 6	Orris	16 ... 0
Buchu	32 ... 2	Orange-peel	73 ... 18
Calumba	60 ... 20	Papain	12 ... 0
Camphor—		Pareira brava	18 ... 0
(Jap.ref.slabs)(cs.)	45 ... 45	Patchouli oil	1 ... 1
Canella alba	10 ... 0	Peppermint oil ...	10 ... 5
Cannabis indica ...	49 ... 0	Puree	2 ... 0
Cardamoms & seed	206 ... 55	Quince-seed	3 ... 3
Cascara sagrada ...	50 ... 50	Rhatany-root	3 ... 0
Cascarilla	9 ... 6	Rhubarb (China)...	64 ... *3
Cassia oil	5 ... 5	Sarsaparilla—	
Chiretta	18 ... 18	Grey Jam.	8 ... 8
Cinchona	33 ... 0	Lima Jam	16 ... 16
Cinnamon oil	2 ... 0	Native Jam	22 ... 5
Cica-leaves	79 ... 2	Seedlac	72 ... 26
Colocyath and pulp	17 ... 0	Senna and pods—	
Croton-seed	44 ... 0	Alexandrian	23 ... 0
Cubebs	70 ... 0	Tinnevely	210 ... 115
Cuttlefish-bone ...	204 ... *15	Squill	96 ... 0
Dragon's-blood	15 ... 1	Strophanthus	15 ... 0
Elemi	50 ... 25	Tamarinds	118 ... 0
Ergot	12 ... 0	Tonka-beans	8 ... 0
Eucalyptus oil	32 ... 0	Tragacanth	22 ... 15
Fennel-seed	80 ... 0	Turmeric	762 ... 10*
Galls	1 ... 1	Turtle dried	1 ... 0
Gamboge	27 ... 0	Vanilla	1 ... 1
Guaiacum	3 ... 1	Wax (Bees')—	
Gum acacia	139 ... 2	China	10 ... 0
Gurjun oil	50 ... 0	East African	32 ... 10
Honey—		East Indian	162 ... 1
Jamaica	1 ... 1	Jamaica	17 ... 5
St. Lucia	36 ... 36	Madagascar	15 ... 0
Ipecacuanha—		Morocco	33 ... 0
Cartagena	10 ... 0	West Indian	2 ... 2
Matto Grosso ...	12 ... 4	Wax, veg. (Jap.)...	25 ... 25
Minas	9 ... 0		

*Sold privately.

ALOES.—Only seven cases Cape offered, 25 cases not being landed in time. Fair seconds, slightly drossy on 20-per-cent. tares, sold at 38s. 6d., and dullish seconds at 37s. Of Curaçao aloes seven boxes sold, including fair liver, at 55s., ordinary coarse dark at 38s., and inferior dark at 36s. per cwt.; bright capey was limited at 40s. Of Socotrine in kegs 18 sold without reserve at 52s. 6d. for fair hard hepatic, being cheap, and for six cases Zanzibar, offered under usual conditions, from 65s. to 70s. was paid for fair to good hard, 57s. 6d. for fair but in papery skins, and 31s. subject for very skinny.

The exports from the Union of South Africa during December amounted to 39,241 lb., valued at 462l., against 64,518 lb., valued at 619l., in 1911. The twelve months' exports were 798,482 lb., valued at 8,456l., against 801,789 lb., valued at 7,909l.

AMMONIACUM.—Five bags of fair small pale tear, mixed with darkish block and seed, sold at 65s. per cwt.

ANNATTO-SEED.—Ten bags of good deep red Madras were limited at 2½d.

BENZON.—Quiet. Six cases of fair almondy Sumatra seconds, with slightly false packed ends, sold at 7*l.* 5*s.* Good seconds, with small to bold almonds slight brown ends, were held at 7*l.* 15*s.* to 8*l.* Ordinary woody Palembang, with almondy centres, was held at 60*s.*, a bid of 57*s.* 6*d.* being refused.

BUCHU.—Quiet in auction. Two bales of long-oval leaf, slightly stalky, sold without reserve at from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 5*d.* For three bales of good green, genuine long, slightly stalky, the buying-in price was 5*s.* 3*d.*, fair ditto with chopped stems 4*s.* 6*d.*, and for fair round green 6*s.* was wanted. In one instance a bid of 5*s.* 6*d.* was refused for such. For bronzy to green ovals from 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* was wanted. Privately there has recently been a good business for export to the United States, and from Cape Town 5*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f. is quoted. The *Balmoral Castle* has arrived with 68 packages.

The exports from the Union of South Africa during December amounted to 6,066 lb., valued at 1,035*l.*, against 7,713 lb., valued at 966*l.*, in 1911. The twelve months' exports were:

		1911	1912
Lb.	...	212,082	223,021
£	...	29,647	38,264

CALUMBA.—A lot of 20 bags washed pickings sold at 16*s.* per cwt. The arrivals include 147 bags from Port Amelia and 120 bags from Bombay.

CAMPOR, REFINED.—A parcel of 45 cases Japanese 2½-lb. slabs sold without reserve, for account of whom it may concern at from 1*s.* 5*d.* to 1*s.* 5½*d.* (mostly at the higher figure) net, no allowances.

CARDAMOMS sold at fully previous prices, including Ceylon-Mysore extra bold good pale, 5*s.* 11*d.*; good bold pale, 5*s.* 7*d.*; tiny pale, 5*s.* 2*d.*; inferior to good splits and pickings, 3*s.* 10*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.*; pale seed, 4*s.* 9*d.*; Indian from Calicut (Mangalore character), good round bold pale, 5*s.* 10*d.*; bold medium, 5*s.* 6*d.*; small to tiny round, 4*s.*; fair to bold medium unbleached Alleppy, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 11*d.* A string of 51 Ceylon-Malabar of fair medium to bold size half-bleached was strictly limited at 3*s.* 9*d.*, a bid of 3*s.* 7*d.* being refused for the first lot.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Fifty bags fair new crop sold without reserve at 33*s.* to 33*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. gross for net, without discount. Privately three-year-old bark is quoted 38*s.* on spot.

CASCARILLA being scarce, sold at very high prices, five bales of ordinary quill, mixed with stringy, selling at from 75*s.* to 82*s.* 6*d.*, and very lean twiggy at 65*s.* Three barrels of mostly common dusty siftings were bought in at 50*s.*

CASSIA OIL.—Five cases containing 75 to 76 per cent. c.a. (Umney's analysis) sold without reserve at 3*s.* 2*d.* per lb.

COCA-LEAVES.—Two cases of small thin wild Ceylon-Truxillo character sold at 4*d.* per lb., and for 14 bags of powdered Java, partly first-class sea-damaged, a bid of 3½*d.* is to be submitted to the owner. A lot of 60 bales small bright greenish Ceylon-Huanoco was taken out without mention of price.

CHIRETTA.—Steady, five bales of fair in neatly rolled hanks selling at 3*d.* Fifteen bales had been disposed of privately.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—A case of common pickings from reboiled lump sold without reserve at 5*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; ordinary bricky lump was bought in at 7*l.* 5*s.*, and good *reed* was limited at 8*l.* per cwt. The *Neleus* has brought 20 cases from Singapore and 13 cases from Penang.

GUAIACUM.—A single cask of ordinary drossy block sold at 11*d.* per lb.

HONEY.—Steady; 36 cases St. Lucia sold at 28*s.* 6*d.* for fair brown set, and at from 26*s.* to 28*s.* for ordinary to fair pale brown liquid; a barrel of liquid Jamaica, all that offered, realised 25*s.* per cwt. Small sales of Californian have been made on spot at 45*s.* for good, and in Liverpool fine has changed hands at 50*s.* per cwt.

IPECACUANHA sold at firm prices, three bales of good bright plump native picked Matto Grosso realising 9*s.*, and for a bale of mouldy 8*s.* 2*d.* was paid; in another instance

a pocket bid of 8*s.* 6*d.* was refused for fair. Eight bales of Minas were limited at 8*s.* 6*d.*, and for selected Cartagena in cases 8*s.* 3*d.* was wanted. The *Neleus* has brought 21 bags Johore from Port Swettenham.

LIME-JUICE firm, two puncheons fair raw Jamaica slightly pulpy, selling at 1*s.* 7*d.*, and for seven puncheons of ordinary brown pulpy 1*s.* 5*d.* was paid; for good green 1*s.* 9*d.* was the limit.

LIQUORICE-ROOT.—Twenty bags Russian decorticated sold without reserve at 21*s.* per cwt. net and gross for net, and seven cases of powdered, guaranteed pure, were limited at 59*s.* per cwt. A further 20 bags of cut decorticated root were held at 36*s.*

LYCOPodium.—For 10 bags of guaranteed pure (Harrison's analysis) the limit was 1*s.* 7½*d.* per lb. net.

MASTICH.—Two of the cases offered had been sold privately and the remaining case of fair tear was limited at 2*s.* 10*d.*

MUSK-SEED.—A single tin of fair flavour sold at 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

MYRRH.—Two packages inferior blocky Somali character sold without reserve at 36*s.*; mostly small and partly blocky Somali sorts were held at 42*s.* 6*d.* No good Aden was offered.

ORANGE-PEEL steady, five cases of fair pale Tripoli strip selling at 6*d.* to 6½*d.*, and in another instance 11 cases were disposed of, including fair pale at 6½*d.*, and darkish to dark at 6*d.* to 5½*d.*

PATCHOULI OIL.—A single case of Penang sold without reserve with all faults at 8½*d.* per oz.

QUINCE-SEED.—Three bags Portuguese of ordinary quality sold at 2*s.* 2*d.* per lb.

RHATANY.—Three bales of very chumpy Peruvian packed in bales of about 300 kilos. each were bought in at 3*d.* per lb.

RHUBARB.—No public business was done. Medium to bold flat dull coated High-dried with three-quarters fair pinky fracture was held at 1*s.* 2*d.*; medium round Carton of good fracture at 3*s.* 9*d.*, medium to bold flat Shensi (High-dried) with three-quarters *pale* pinky fracture at 3*s.* 3*d.* per lb.

SARSAPARILLA.—Genuine grey Jamaica was firm to dearer, six bales selling at 2*s.* 5*d.* for fair fibrous, and at 2*s.* 7*d.* for two bales of slightly rough, the last of the parcel. Native Jamaica was quiet, four bales good red selling at 10*d.*, and a bale of mixed greyish at 9*d.* Lima-Jamaica was 4*d.* to 5*d.* dearer compared with the previous public sale, 16 bales selling at from 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.* per lb. Privately 8*d.* net on spot is quoted for Mexican.

SEEDLAC.—For good orange Karachi 75*s.* was wanted, and 26 bags of common dull sold without reserve at from 38*s.* to 38*s.* 6*d.*

SENNA steady, the bulk of the Tinnevely leaf offered being ordinary small to medium yellowish leaf, which sold at from 1½*d.* to 1¾*d.*, medium greenish at 1¾*d.* subject, and fair greenish at 2¾*d.* *Pods*, dark to fair, realised 1½*d.* to 1¾*d.* Four bales of good grey medium-size Tinnevely leaf sold without reserve at 2½*d.*

TURMERIC.—Ten bags ordinary Chinese finger sold without reserve at 18*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

WAX, BEES'.—Jamaica was steady but quiet, small sales of fair brown block being made at 7*l.* 15*s.*, and rather dark, part remelted, at 7*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; two cases of good pale yellow Grenada realised 7*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* Of East African four bundles fair brown, part a little dark, sold at 7*l.* 5*s.*, and for four bags from Mozambique 6*l.* 10*s.* was paid for ordinary part drossy and common broken ball. Bleached Calcutta was limited at 8*l.* 10*s.* for good pale and 7*l.* 15*s.* for dull; bids of 6*l.* 15*s.* are to be submitted for 16 bags Morocco.

WAX, VEGETABLE.—A lot of 25 cases good pale Japanese squares sold without reserve at from 44*s.* to 45*s.* Privately the spot price is 46*s.*

MESSRS. W. CHARITY & SONS, 14 Harp Lane, London, E.C., have been appointed as sole agents in the United Kingdom for the sale of olive oils manufactured by Messrs. Ed. Tarazzi & Co., of Marseilles.

Manchester Chemical-market.

Manchester, March 4.

There was a shade better demand to note in heavy chemicals, though anticipated troubles in the cotton-trade will no doubt affect matters, especially on contract account. It is announced that certain Lancashire mills are closing down, owing to disagreements as to bad material, and should this be carried out generally we may expect a quiet state of things for some time to come. There is a better demand for sulphate of copper, due to somewhat increased values in the raw metal. For prompt delivery quotations are about 23*l.* 5*s.* to 23*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, April delivery being about 5*s.* lower, and for March 22*l.* 15*s.* to 22*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, delivered Manchester. Yellow prussiate of potash and similar products rather in buyers' favour. Carbonate of potash also favours buyers. Acetate of lime and acetic acid quiet, the last-named being quoted 13*s.* 9*d.* to 20*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for 40 to 60 per cent., and glacial 37*l.* per ton. There is a very steady feeling in glycerin at about late rates. Potashes are generally in rather better demand, although Montreal is quiet. White powdered arsenic is quoted about 19*l.* to 20*l.* per ton, delivered Manchester. In coal-tar products, sulphate of ammonia is 14*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* to 14*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton, on rails, Manchester.

Heavy Chemicals.

There is a steady tone in the heavy-chemical market, in spite of a comparatively speaking somewhat quiet demand. The general conditions continue much the same as lately reported, though here and there heavier deliveries have been ordered forward, particularly against contracts, in view of possible difficulties in railway transit owing to prospective labour troubles. Values do not show much change, and are mostly steady.

ALKALI-PRODUCE shows a fair average demand for both main and miscellaneous articles. Bleaching-powder in brisk demand at 5*l.* 5*s.* to 5*l.* 15*s.* per ton, on rails, in softwood casks, according to circumstances. Caustic soda is moving well at unaltered rates: 76 to 77 per cent., 10*l.* to 10*l.* 10*s.*; 70 per cent., 9*l.* 5*s.* to 9*l.* 15*s.*; and 60 per cent., 8*l.* 5*s.* to 8*l.* 15*s.* Ammonia alkali varies from 2*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* per ton, free on rails for home trade, and is in steady demand. Soda-crystals, 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*l.* 5*s.* per ton, in bags, free on rails. Bicarbonate of soda, 5*l.* to 5*l.* 15*s.* per ton, according to packages, etc. Saltcake in steady request at 42*s.* 6*d.* in bulk. Chlorates of potash and soda in fair demand at 3*l.* 4*d.* to 4*d.* per lb. Yellow prussiates of potash and soda somewhat quieter, but steady, at from 6*d.* to 7*d.* for potash and 4*d.* to 4½*d.* for soda. Hypsulphite of soda steady at unaltered figures. Ordinary crystals, 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 5*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per ton for larger lots in casks; smaller quantities extra. Deliveries in 1-cwt. kegs, 5*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 8*l.* per ton, according to quality and quantity. Silicates of soda firm; 140° Tw., 4*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*; 100° Tw., 4*l.* to 4*l.* 10*s.*; and 75° Tw., 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton, according to quality, quantity, and destination.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA quiet and somewhat lower. Beckton, 25-per-cent. ammonia guaranteed, March-April, 13*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; London terms, prompt, 13*l.* 5*s.* to 13*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; Leith, 14*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*; Liverpool, 14*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; and Hull, 14*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*

Bark and Quinine Agreement.

About a fortnight ago Mr. W. C. Loudon arrived at Amsterdam, as the representative of the Java cinchona-planters, to fix the minor points of the agreement which has been arrived at between the planters and the quinine manufacturers. Mr. Loudon is a member of the firm of Tiedeman & Van Kerchem, of Amsterdam and Batavia, and as chairman of the committee in Java which drew up the draft agreement he is admirably suited for his mission, and we have not the shadow of a doubt (writes a Java correspondent) but that he will conclude this successfully. The trust which is imposed in him by his colleagues in the cinchona world is obvious when it is considered that he holds powers of attorney from estates representing three-fifths of the bark-production to sign the agreement on their behalf. He also holds a power of attorney of the Java Government to sign the agreement for them. The negotiations between the Java bark-suppliers and the associated quinine manufacturers have extended over a lengthy period—two years—and it is therefore satisfactory to learn that the latter have at last yielded to the condition of the Netherlands Indian Government to erect a small quinine-factory on the Government estate to supply quinine to the natives in the Dutch Indies. It is remarkable that all the Java planters are participating in this agreement. There are, we understand, ninety estates which grow cinchona in the Dutch Indies (including a few in Sumatra), and these are all joining in the agreement on the same terms. We understand that this is chiefly a result of the diplomatic and firm attitude of Mr. H. J. Lovink, the Director of Agriculture of the Netherlands East Indies. Mr. Lovink has

always acted from the point of view that the organisation of all the planters—that is to say, that it should be clear to all that their interests are identical. Without an organisation, the members of which were all unanimous in their demands, no agreement could have been arrived at, as the combined quinine manufacturers only wished to come to an arrangement with all the planters. The agreement may be summarised as follows: The Dutch Indian planters will ship all their bark to Amsterdam; they agree to supply 500,000 kilos, quinine sulphate per annum to the combined quinine-makers in bark-form. The quinine-makers agree to pay the planters a minimum price per unit of 5 Dutch cents (=2*d.*) for every per cent. of quinine sulphate in the bark. Should the price of quinine at any time exceed 16.50*fl.* (say 28*s.*) per kilo., the excess will be equally divided between the manufacturers and the planters. A Bureau of Administration will be established at Amsterdam.

We may add that the meetings in Amsterdam have not led to any definite result, but they will be continued either towards the end of this week (March 8) or at the beginning of next week. It would appear that there are still a couple of points to which an agreement would have to be arrived at before the contract can be signed.

Japanese Menthol and Oil Exports.

Complete official returns regarding the exports of menthol and peppermint oil from Japan for the year 1912 are now available, so that we are able to make a comparison for the past three years, the figures being as follows:

	Menthol (Kin)			Peppermint Oil (Kin)		
	1910	1911	1912	1910	1911	1912
January	8,767	16,019	16,482	18,946	20,109	22,124
February	14,274	25,729	18,969	18,998	37,235	28,610
March	6,615	6,968	15,506	16,240	12,511	17,455
April	2,837	3,152	14,090	11,203	2,640	15,231
May	12,159	2,837	5,065	10,045	1,469	7,460
June	9,970	2,201	3,989	6,225	2,785	6,158
July	6,584	8,506	932	6,332	8,033	1,949
August	9,121	6,950	3,000	1,463	18,612	5,532
September	7,236	3,770	7,078	9,433	10,403	10,845
October	17,632	9,393	15,429	16,757	13,330	21,444
November	12,170	10,872	16,527	14,066	13,541	25,747
December	9,557	17,249	16,103	6,801	32,045	23,330
Kin (1½ lb.)	116,922	113,646	133,170	138,699	172,330	184,855
= lb.	155,856	151,528	177,560	184,900	229,800	246,513
= Cases of 60 lb. each	2,598	2,525	2,959	3,081	3,830	4,108
Value £ ...	66,200	93,300	162,284	47,400	63,900	71,371

It is of interest to note that the export of menthol cones from Japan during 1912 amounted to 62,500 dozen, valued at 74,712*l.*, no official record existing for the previous two years.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. J. EYRES, chemist and druggist, 96 St. James's Road, Southsea, has retired from business.

MR. JOSEPH M. DOWTY, pharmacist, has taken over the business of his father, the late Mr. W. Dowty, chemist and druggist, at the Abbey Pharmacy, High Street, Pershore.

MESSRS. STAFFORD ALLEN & SONS, LTD., Cowper Street, Finsbury, London, E.C., have acquired the old-established business of Ferris & Williams, essential-oil distillers and drug-grinders, 39 Great Sutton Street, Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

CHINESE CAMPHOR EXPORTS.—The "Nachrichten für Handel" (Berlin) of February 20 states, on the authority of the German Consul in Amoy, that the export of camphor from the Province of Fukien shows a considerable falling off in 1912 as compared with past years. In 1912, 179 piculs only were despatched from Fuchow, as against 19,711 piculs from Amoy and Fuchow in 1907 and 576 piculs in 1911. The exports from Amoy in 1912 were so insignificant that camphor is no longer separately mentioned in the Customs statistics.—*Board of Trade Journal.*

Ambergris Finds.

Christchurch (New Zealand), Jan. 13.

What is described as a record lump of ambergris (a secretion in the bodies of whales resulting from disease) has been discovered by Captain Larsen, of the steam whaler *Norvegia*. Ambergris, which is sometimes found floating in the sea, is highly valued as a basis in perfumery. An enormous whale was harpooned by a boat's crew, and nearly half a ton of the precious substance was taken from its body. An expert chemist has pronounced it to be real ambergris and worth about 60,000*l.*—*Daily Mail*, February 19.

Christ Church, N.Z., February 18.—The whaler *Norvegia*, which arrived here to-day, made a great strike. From the whales which she captured the crew obtained nearly half a ton of ambergris, which is believed to break all records. It is stated that the ambergris is worth \$500,000.—*N.Y. Commercial*.

THESE paragraphs are interesting, first as showing how some American newspapers get their cabled news, and, second, to the perfumery and drug markets. If the find of ambergris weighs half a ton, it is the biggest thing of the kind that has ever been known; but we do not believe it is so heavy as 17,920 oz.; the alleged price, 60,000*l.*, indicates about half that weight, and a liberal discount would need to be allowed off that. One thing is certain: that the authentic history of any big find of ambergris is not learnt until it has all been disposed of in such a way as not to disturb the market. We have from time to time reported on these finds—e.g., in the *C. & D.*, 1891, II., 587, and in the following issue the story was told by a broker how he received and sold a barrel of ambergris weighing 3 cwt. (5,376 oz.). The last big find was on March 5, 1911, when 160 lb. was collected, but not in one piece.

Ambergris is a subject of perennial interest, but as regards its origin little more is known to-day than was known in the eighteenth century, as the following reprint of an official document of that period shows:

ON THE PRODUCTION OF AMBERGRIS.

A communication from the Committee of Council appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations; with a prefatory letter from William Fawkener, Esq., to Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., P.R.S.

Read January 20, 1791.

To Sir Joseph Banks, Bart.,
Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 15th January, 1791.

SIR,—Lord Hawkesbury, President of the Committee of Privy Council appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations, having received a letter from Mr. Champion, a Principal Merchant concerned in the Southern Whale Fishery, informing him that a ship belonging to him had lately arrived from the said fishery which had brought him home 362 ounces of ambergris, found by Mr. Coffin, captain of the said ship, in the body of a female spermaceti whale, taken on the coast of Guinea, his Lordship thought fit to desire Captain Coffin, as well as Mr. Champion, to attend the Lords of the Committee, that they might be examined concerning all the circumstances of the fact before mentioned; and I am directed by their Lordships to transmit to you a copy of the examination of these two gentlemen that you may communicate the same to the Royal Society, if you should think that any of the circumstances stated in this examination will contribute to remove the doubts hitherto entertained concerning the natural history and production of this valuable drug. I send you also a piece of the ambergris so taken out of the whale, and some of the bills of the fish, called squids (which are supposed to be the food of spermaceti whales), and which were found partly in the ambergris taken from this female whale and partly on the outside of it and adhering to it.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

W. FAWKENER.

At the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the 12th January, 1791.
By the Lords of the Committee of Council appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations.

Read—Letter from Mr. Alexander Champion, a principal merchant concerned in the Southern Whale Fishery, to Lord Hawkesbury, dated the 2d instant, acquainting his Lordship that Captain Joshua Coffin, of the ship *The Lord Hawkesbury*, is lately arrived from the Southern Whale Fishery; and that the said ship, besides a cargo of 76 tons of spermaceti oil and head-matter, has brought home about 360 ounces of ambergris, which the said captain took out of the body of a female spermaceti whale on the Coast of Guinea.

Mess. Champion and Coffin attending, were then called in, and the following questions were put to Mr. Coffin, viz.:

Q. Have any of the whales, taken before by ships sailing from Great Britain, to your knowledge, contained any ambergris?—A. None that I ever heard of. The American ships have, at times, found some.

Q. Was the ambergris found by you found in a bull or cow fish?—A. It was found in a cow fish.

Q. Is it usual to look for ambergris in whales that are killed?—A. It has not hitherto been much the practice to do so.

Q. How happened it that you discovered this?—A. We saw it come out of the fundament of the whale; as we were cutting the blubber a piece of it swam upon the surface of the sea.

Q. In what part of the whale did you find the remainder?—A. Some more was in the same passage, and the rest was contained in a bag a little below the passage and communicating with it.

Q. Did the whale appear to be in health?—A. No, she did not. She seemed sickly, had no flesh on her bones, and was very old, as appears by the teeth, two of which I have. Though she was about thirty-five feet long, she did not produce above one ton and a half of oil. A fish of the same size, in good health, would have produced two tons and a half.

Q. Have you observed the food that whales generally feed on?—A. The spermaceti whale feeds, as I believe, almost wholly upon a fish called squid. I have often seen a whale, when dying, bring up a quantity of squid, sometimes whole, and sometimes pieces of it. The bills of the squid (some of which Mr. Coffin produced) were found, some in the inside, and some on the outside of the ambergris, sticking to it.

Q. Did you ever find any ambergris floating on the sea?—A. I never did, but others frequently have.

Q. How long have you been engaged in the whale fishery?—A. It is about sixteen years since I first entered into it.

Q. What is the general proportion of cow and bull whales you have met with?—A. I believe the proportion to be nearly equal. In my last voyage, however, I found only four bulls out of thirty-five whales. I fished upon the coast of Africa between five North and seven South degrees of Latitude. I am inclined to think that the cow whale goes to calve in the low latitudes, which accounts for more cows being found in those latitudes.

Q. Is there any particular season when the cow whales calve?—A. I do not know that there is.

Q. Does the bull or cow whale, in proportion to their size, produce the most oil?—A. The cow whale, when big with calf, produces more oil than a bull of the same size; when sucking she produces less.

Q. Are the whales usually found singly, or in pairs, or in large numbers?—A. Usually in large numbers, which we call *scools* (*sic*), and particularly in the low latitudes. I have seen from fifteen to perhaps a thousand together.

Q. Have you any further information on this subject to give to the Committee?—A. We have generally observed that the spermaceti whale, when struck, voids her excrement; if she does not, we conclude that she has ambergris in her. I think ambergris most likely to be found in a sickly fish; for I consider it to be the effect or cause of some disorder.

Questions put to Mr. Champion.

Q. At what price does ambergris usually sell; and at what price did that taken by your ship sell?—A. A small quantity had lately sold at 25*s.* per ounce; but it was then very scarce. Mine sold for 19*s.* 9*d.* per ounce. The whole quantity found in this whale was 362 ounces Troy. The people who bought it told me this was a larger quantity than was ever before brought at once to market. It has generally been sold at about 4 or 5 pounds at a time.

Q. For the use of what country was this ambergris bought?—A. I do not exactly know. It was bought by a broker, who told me that his principal, who purchased about one-half, bought it for exportation to Turkey, Germany, and France. The other half was purchased by the druggists in town.

This is a remarkable document. We have previously quoted from it, but now give it in full, as a striking example of how history repeats itself.

FORMULAS for B.P.C. preparations on the Insurance drug tariff are printed in an eight-page leaflet, which is supplied at 6*d.* per doz. (7*d.* by post) by the *C. & D.* Book Department, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

POISON-RINGS.—Some specimens of poison-rings, popular in Italy during the Renaissance epoch, are preserved in the Parisian Museum of Mediæval Antiquities. The presence of a death-head on a mediæval ring does not necessarily imply that it was arranged to receive poison.

London Commercial Sale Rooms.

OF the many marts of commerce where business is daily transacted in the City of London, the Commercial Sale Rooms or Produce Exchange in Mincing Lane is one of the most important, and takes high rank among similar institutions where City life is a typical feature. The annexed photograph shows part of the interior of the Members' Subscription Room at a time when the day's business had barely commenced. After lunch, say 2.30 to 3 P.M., is the busiest time, and if the weather is at all hot the atmosphere cannot be said to be exhilarating. The Commercial Sale Rooms building, of which the Subscription Room is on the ground floor, was reconstructed

as our photograph shows. They are all engaged in an animated conversation, as a result of which merchandise valued at thousands of pounds changes hands daily. The business is mostly speculation in produce, such as sugar, coffee, pepper, cloves, shellac, rubber, hemp, jute, rice, and other articles, sold for spot, shipment, or delivery, as the case may be. At certain periods of the day "calls" are held in sugar, coffee, pepper, and other produce, under the auspices of the London Produce Clearing House, while in one corner of the room there is a market in rubber shares, but most of this business has migrated to the Tea and Rubber Brokers' Association further up the Lane. Ample provision is made for the comfort and convenience of members, of which there are about 1,250. In the reading-room are found the leading dailies, directories, also many

foreign and Colonial newspapers which are largely in demand, and for those who wish to relieve the tedium of business, or the lack of it, illustrated, comic, and society journals are also to be found. The club-like appearance of the Produce Exchange is further enhanced by comfortable cushioned seats, and writing-tables with the usual accessories. A telegraph-office is attached to the Rooms, and there are also half-a-dozen telephone-boxes, and an Exchange Company's tape-machine recording Stock Exchange prices. Telegrams from various commercial centres are provided for reference. These include Reuter's cables from the principal world's markets: Liverpool for cotton, Havre and Hamburg for coffee, Amsterdam for tin, Calcutta for shellac, jute, and so on. Not the least important of the comforts of the Rooms is a luncheon-bar



THE MINCING LANE PRODUCE EXCHANGE (Subscription Room).

in 1896, and the present is the third Exchange which has been erected on the site. Unlike the Royal Exchange, the Subscription Room is not open to the public. Candidates for membership must be proposed and seconded by two members, whose names are placed in a conspicuous part of the Rooms at least ten days before the election, and no person is admitted whose commercial antecedents will not bear investigation. A member may also nominate his clerk to be admitted to the privilege of using the Rooms upon certain conditions. For old members (elected prior to January 1, 1897) the annual subscription is 7*l.* 7*s.*, and for new members (elected after January 1, 1897) the annual subscription is 10*l.* 10*s.*, and an entrance fee of 15*l.* 15*s.* Members are permitted to introduce visitors who reside at a distance of not less than forty miles from London, and their names and residences are entered in the visitors' book in the entrance-hall, a glance at which register shows that visitors hail from all over the globe. The two entrances to the Rooms are guarded from intruders by uniformed officials, who are familiar with every member's face, and it is part of their duty to call out the names of members who are wanted outside. As no samples of goods are allowed to be exhibited in the Rooms, a stranger on entering might express curiosity as to the nature of the business carried on. All he would see is a crowd of men of diverse types, all clad in sober black and wearing more or less glossy silk-hats. But in these democratic days, especially in the summer months, the attire is usually more light and airy, while the "topper" has given place to the "straw" and bowler,

and restaurant, where the inner-man can be refreshed at a reasonable cost, and in the basement are the lavatories and dressing-rooms. One of the best features of the Sale Rooms is the Benevolent Fund, which deserves more assistance than it gets. The Right Hon. Lord Ritchie of Dundee is the President, Mr. Howard Figgis Treasurer, and Mr. C. W. Englehardt (manager of the Subscription Rooms) is Secretary.

Drug-testing in U.S.A.

In the annual report of Dr. R. E. Doolittle, of the Bureau of Chemistry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, it is stated that the quality of crude drugs permitted entry has been superior to that of previous years. The imports of ergot, as a whole, offered for entry were of inferior grade; many shipments were found to contain small shrivelled, worm-eaten, and deteriorated ergot. Senna siftings were found to contain excessive quantities of sand, dirt, and other foreign material. In some instances it has been found practicable to reduce the ash from about 18 to 9 per cent. by subjecting the drug to a process of cleaning. Shipments of anise, cardamom, fennel, and coriander were detained owing to the excess of small gravel, sand, dirt, or foreign seed which they contained, and a special investigation of the methods of analysis of these products is being conducted in connection with the branch laboratories and the micro-chemical laboratory. Consignments of uva ursi, buchu, and cubebs containing an excess of stems have been less frequent; a number of importations of asafoetida were adulterated with cheap foreign gums, but as a whole the quality has improved materially. The peculiar statement is made that many importations were found to contain alcohol soluble matter in excess of the requirements of the U.S.P.

CINNAMON:

Its History, Botany, Cultivation and Commerce, illustrated with Plantation Photographs.

OF all the spices cinnamon has probably the most romantic history. It was undoubtedly highly esteemed by the ancients, and it seems to have been the first spice sought after in Oriental voyages by European adventurers. Both cinnamon and cassia are mentioned in the Bible and by pharmaceutical writers of antiquity. Galen remarked upon the analogy between low-quality cinnamon and high-grade cassia. The two spices were regarded as the most costly of aromatics, but there is little doubt that the first records refer in reality to cassia imported from China to Arabia. The Romans held the spice in high esteem, and it is stated that in the time of Augustus the annual trade in the spice with India amounted to 400,000*l*. Apparently none of the cinnamon of the ancients was obtained from Ceylon, and Hanbury in "Pharmacographia" says Tennent was not able to find the remotest allusion to the spice as an indigenous production, from the earliest ages to the close of the thirteenth century. Thus nothing is known as to when cinnamon collection commenced in Ceylon. The first mention of the spice is by an Arab writer named Kaswini about A.D. 1275. In 1292 or 1293 John of Montecorvino, a Minorite friar on a visit to India as a missionary, wrote: "A great store of its bark (cinnamon) is carried forth from the island near by Malabar." Ibn Batuta, the Mahometan traveller, in 1340, and Nicolo di Conti, a century later, mentioned the Ceylon plant, and the latter described it very correctly. In 1505 the Portuguese circumnavigating the Cape of Good Hope discovered Ceylon, where the new-comers found cinnamon in its wild state. The Cingalese king, who lived at Cotta, contracted to pay an annual tribute of 250,000 lb. of cinnamon in return for the protection of the Portuguese, but in 1536 the Portuguese permanently occupied the island chiefly for the sake of cinnamon, compelling the natives to bring it as tribute. A peculiar caste of natives known as Chalias or Chaliyas, said to be emigrants from India in the thirteenth century, became the cinnamon-peelers and delivered the bark to the Portuguese, who cruelly oppressed them. The Dutch wrested possession of Ceylon from the Portuguese by conquest about 1656. The conquerors made cinnamon a State monopoly, protecting it with barbaric laws, any person cultivating the tree on his own land or destroying a cinnamon bush being liable to punishment by death. The bark exported was minutely examined before shipment to guard against fraud by the collectors. Before 1767 the supply of cinnamon was derived from the jungle territories of the Kandyan king. About that time De Koke, under Governors Falck and Van der Graff, in spite of universal prejudice in favour of wild bark, began the systematic cultivation of the tree. The Kadirana, Ekela, and Maradana Gardens were then formed between Colombo and Negombo, as well as the Moratuwa and Beruwa Gardens, covering altogether 15,000 acres. Gardens from fifteen to twenty miles in circumference were also made near Galle and Matara. The Dutchmen from the territory which they had annexed obtained 400,000 lb. of cinnamon annually, independent of that yielded by the kingdom of Kandy. They completely governed the trade and would even burn surplus stock in Holland when prices began to fall. The English took Ceylon from the Dutch in 1796, and the article remained a monopoly under the East India Company until 1833, when the cultivation of cinnamon was declared free. With the abolition of the monopoly trade passed into the hands of the Ceylon merchants. There still remained for some time a high export duty; at first this was equivalent to one-third to one-half of the value of the spice. In 1832 the duty was 2*s*. to 3*s*. per lb.; in 1844, 2*s*. to 2*s*. 6*d*. per lb. These high duties led to a falling-off in cultivation, especially as cinnamon raised in Java and cassia from China began to successfully compete with it. In 1846 the duty was reduced to 1*s*., in 1848 to 4*d*., and in 1853 to 2*d*., and was entirely removed in 1860. The

industry expanded greatly afterwards, and extensive plantations, with various ups and downs consequent upon coffee and coconut cultivation, have long been a feature of certain low country districts in the hot moist zone. In 1901 the cultivation was still further extending, but the rubber boom has led to another set-back in the industry, cinnamon now being rooted out to make way for rubber plants. Cinnamon-trees were introduced into the Seychelles Islands in 1775, and were cultivated in the Royal Gardens at Mahé. Their cultivation was subsequently abandoned, but the trees grew and took root in the forests, where they were entirely neglected until about 1908.

BOTANY.

The cinnamon of commerce is the bark derived from *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Breyne, N.O. Laurineæ. The plant is indigenous to the moist parts of Ceylon up to 3,000 feet. Varieties of the cinnamon-tree also occur in India, Burma, Java, and the Malay Peninsula. It is a small to moderate-sized evergreen tree of bushy spreading habit, attaining a height of from twenty to forty feet. The stout trunk is branched low down, and the strong branches form a fairly large compact head. Coppicing in plantations results in formation of stools. The entire ovate shining leaves are arranged alternately, and vary from 3 to 7 in. long and 2 to 4 in. wide. Each has three (or five) conspicuous longitudinal paler-coloured nerves joined together at the base and running to the tip of the leaf. The inflorescences consist of lax panicles borne at or near the ends of the branches. The flowers ($\frac{1}{2}$ -inch long) are small and dingy, grey or green in colour, with a bell-shaped perianth tube of six segments. There are nine stamens in three rows and three staminodes or barren stamens. The single-celled ovary contains one ovule and gives rise to a black fleshy drupe with a cup at the base formed of the enlarged perianth lobes. The fruits are eagerly devoured by birds, who thus widely distribute the seeds. The Cingalese name of the plant is "Kurundu," and several varieties are recognised, Penné- or Rasa-Kurundu, signifying honey or sweet cinnamon, being the only type cultivated. The other kinds are respectively known by the Cingalese equivalents of snake cinnamon, camphor cinnamon, astringent cinnamon, mucilaginous cinnamon, flat or drum cinnamon, wild cinnamon, bloom cinnamon, and trefoil cinnamon. Some of these, like the plant producing cassia bark, are distinct species.

CULTIVATION.

The cinnamon plant will grow in any ordinarily good soil where the rainfall (85 to 100 in.) and temperature (averaging 85°) are adequate, so long as it is not rocky or dry. The best flavoured bark is produced on poor white sandy soil where there is an average temperature of about 83° and an average rainfall of about one inch for every degree. There is, however, a deep stratum of rich mould below the sand, and where this is lacking the trees are not worth cutting. These prime conditions are met with on the slightly elevated lands of about fifty miles of the coast of the western province. Further south the sandy lands are lacking, while further north the climate is too dry. On marshy land the plant tends to give a bitter bark. The tree may be grown from seed or propagated by root stumps, layers or cuttings. The first method is that usually adopted, from half-a-dozen to a small handful of seeds (washed free from pulp) being sown in prepared holes on the plantation, or singly (9 to 12 inches apart) in nursery beds. The nursery seedlings are ready for transplanting in three or four months. Excessive dryness leads to non-germination or drying off. Many planters prefer to transplant the seedlings in clumps of about half-a-dozen. Plants are usually arranged about ten feet apart, or approximately 450 to the acre. Seedlings yield a crop in the second or third year, when the solitary stem is cut down

to within four or six inches of the ground. The second crop is three or four times as large. In the seventh or eighth year the bushes have grown so big that the peelers can hardly get between them, the yield of bark continuing to increase until the tenth year. The average crop of cinnamon bark per acre is 100 lb. Stools in some of the cinnamon gardens are very large and evidently of great age. Weeding is done regularly, the weed refuse being used as manure. In cultivation the continual low coppicing induces the production of long straight clean shoots, as from these the best quilled bark is obtained. A typical cinnamon plantation is illustrated above.



CUTTING CINNAMON.

Cutting begins during the heavy rains in May and June and again in November and December. At this period the sap is in active circulation and the sticks peel freely. The crop may be got out at one cutting, but if the season is a good one the bushes may have to be cut over two or three times. The bulk of the crop is obtained from shoots of two years' growth. The tops and branches are lopped off by means of a long sickle-shaped hook called a "catty." The sticks are collected, dressed, tied in bundles, and carried to the "wadi" or peeling shed.

Our second photograph shows the verandah of a peeling shed with the native men and women at work. Peeling is



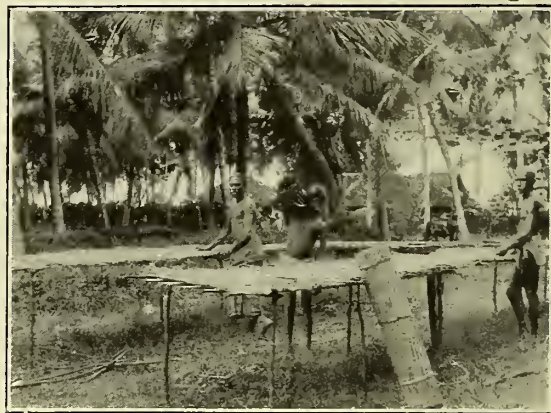
CINNAMON-PEELING.

performed with a small sharp pointed knife with a projection at one side for ripping. The operator takes the stick in his left hand and rings it at distances of about a foot and a half. He then slits it longitudinally from end to end, working the knife between the bark and the wood until it is raised about half an inch wide. Turning the stick he draws another slit parallel to the former, working the knife on that side until the bark is detached.

Sticks that do not peel freely are rubbed with a piece of hard wood, facilitating the removal of the bark. The slips of bark are packed together and these packs piled into a small enclosure of sticks, covered with scrapings and bound with a mat. This serves to keep in the moisture and soften the cuticle for the next operation. Piping is carried out on the following morning by an operator who has in front of him a small tripod of three sticks tied at the point of crossing. This serves as a support for a fourth stick, the end of which rests on the ground. Taking a slip of bark the operator places it on the stick, and holding the upper end with his foot he scrapes off the cuticle with a small curved knife having a slightly serrated edge. This operation is well shown by the attitude of the native in the foreground of our photograph.

The middle section yields bark of the best quality, that from the base being thicker and inferior.

The pipe-maker proper is furnished with a board about 3½ ft. long, a measuring stick, and a pair of scissors. He sorts the prepared slips into various qualities, and, selecting one suitable for the outer cover of the pipe, trims it and cuts the ends square with the scissors. Then placing it on the board he proceeds to pack within it as many of the smaller pieces as will close over it when dry. Then he pushes it along the board, adds and fills another slip until it attains the proper length. At the close of the day the pipes are in parallel lines stretched across the shed, where they are left until firm enough for handling. This operation puts the final touches to the quills, the edges of the outer pieces being pressed in and the ends dressed where necessary. On the second day the pipes are placed on wicker-work frames in the open air. Direct exposure to the sun is apt to produce warping, and mat coverings are used to prevent this. When sufficiently dry the quills are sorted and made up to bundles of about 60 lb. to 65 lb. Our third photograph illustrates this.



DRYING AND SORTING CINNAMON.

A well-formed pipe of cinnamon is of uniform thickness and colour, the edges neatly joined in a straight line from end to end, the joints of the cover being neat and close. The finer sorts have some fifteen to twenty pipes to the pound, and the inferior grades range from ten to fifteen. Coarse bark is generally baled without regard to appearance. Formerly planters took great pride in their marks, paying special rates to the best peelers. In consequence the finest quills were composed of excessively thin aromatic bark of very fine appearance. These qualities really cost more to produce than they sold for, and are now rarely met with. The bark exported from Ceylon of late years has been gradually getting poorer in appearance. The parings from "unpeelable" branches, broken chips, and trimmings constitute the "cinnamon chips" of commerce.

COMMERCE.

For many decades the world's consumption of Ceylon cinnamon was about 500,000 lb. Then competition by Java bark in 1842 reduced the exports from Ceylon to

121,000 lb., but in 1844 the decrease and eventual abolition of export duties in Ceylon brought about "free trade," and in that year 1,057,000 lb. was exported. This naturally swamped the consuming market, and the lower prices led to the old average exports (500,000 lb.) for the next decade. By 1867 the exports had risen to 800,000 lb., it being then found more profitable to export chips than use them for the local distillation of oil. A rush followed, and in the season 1868-69 almost 3,000,000 lb. of chips and baled spice left the island. The low grade of much of this bulk brought chips into disfavour, and by 1873 the total exports had diminished to 1,160,174 lb. By 1882 the 2,000,000-lb. mark was again reached, and in 1895 the figures exceeded 3,000,000 lb. In 1898 4,281,165 lb. was exported, and in 1899 the figures rose to 5,501,096 lb., but fell away to 4,259,886 lb. in 1900. For the past ten years we are able to show separately the exports of quills and chips from Ceylon for each year ending December 31 :

	Quills lb.	Chips lb.	Cinnamon, Bark and Leaf Oil oz.
1902 ...	2,555,313	1,763,679	103,773
1903 ...	3,043,714	2,253,269	80,982
1904 ...	2,871,556	2,368,351	51,748
1905 ...	2,978,162	2,325,514	114,162
1906 ...	3,367,692	2,531,614	158,344
1907 ...	3,358,448	2,835,936	102,604
1908 ...	3,233,229	2,785,824	290,878
1909 ...	3,509,506	2,941,578	207,179
1910 ...	3,283,202	3,022,858	—*
1911 ...	3,128,542	2,644,598	—*
1912 ...	3,594,920	2,349,944	—

* No records published.

We find that Germany is the largest buyer of both quill and chips, and has been so for several years past. In 1912 the direct imports from Ceylon to Germany were : Quills, 972,613 lb. (1911, 1,191,538 lb.); and chips, 582,622 lb. (1911, 676,728 lb.). As a buyer of quills, Spain was second last year, her imports being 722,221 lb., against 550,445 lb. in 1911, and of chips the imports were 248,432 lb., against 141,034 lb. The United States take the third place, with 658,750 lb. quills, and 86,688 lb. chips, as compared with 467,919 lb. quills, and 18,034 lb. chips in 1911. The United Kingdom was fourth on the list last year, with 222,567 lb. quills, against 200,116 lb. in 1911, and 462,941 lb. chips, against 542,622 lb. in 1911. South America is a large consumer of quills, her direct imports last year being 633,398 lb., against 426,667 lb. in 1911; but of chips her imports were only 48,160 lb. France is not a great user of cinnamon, but Italy imports fairly large quantities, last year's figures being 170,740 lb. quills and 124,097 lb. chips, as compared with 95,229 lb. quills and 171,080 lb. chips in 1911. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, and Egypt are only small direct importers. As regards the United States, the imports entered for consumption during the year ending June 30, 1911, amounted to 1,147,428 lb. of quills and chips, valued at \$100,640, as compared with 921,042 lb., valued at \$87,798 in 1910, and 1,022,846 lb., valued at \$93,856 in 1909. In 1907 there were 777,597 lb. imported, but the value was \$106,827, and going back to 1900 we find the imports were 418,374 lb.

As regards the United Kingdom, the following figures taken from the Board of Trade Returns represent the imports and values for the past three years :

	1910.	1911.	1912.
Lb. ...	1,051,087	1,344,396	1,314,567
£ ...	20,856	21,790	24,949

On reference to the Annual Statement of Trade for 1911 (the latest available), we find that our imports during five years were drawn from the following sources :

From—	1907 lb.	1908 lb.	1909 lb.	1910 lb.	1911 lb.
Foreign countries...	28,540	91,196	53,040	111,433	20,729
Seychelles ...	—	83,510	695,100	22,400	395,140
Ceylon ...	1,007,988	760,873	797,916	882,090	870,062
Other British possessions	48,490	45,550	44,120	35,158	58,455
Lb. ...	1,085,018	981,129	1,593,176	1,051,087	1,344,396
£ ...	27,775	21,028	25,891	20,856	21,790

The variable imports from Seychelles are a feature of the five years, and evidently the island finds it more profitable to export the bark as such than to distil oil from it, but this may not be the case when the *wild* plants now used as a source of bark become exhausted and recourse must be had to cultivation. The re-exports from the United Kingdom during the past three years were as follows :

	1910.	1911.	1912.
Lb. ...	350,901	675,057	397,697
£... ...	9,469	15,997	13,988

The above figures include goods in transit, whether on through bill of lading or otherwise; they show how capricious the export cinnamon trade is, reference to this being made later. Our chief customers overseas during the past five years were as follows :

	1907 lb.	1908 lb.	1909 lb.	1910 lb.	1911 lb.
Germany ...	122,300	55,671	81,553	132,497	197,069
Netherlands ...	183,000	190,917	327,576	45,684	291,181
Belgium ...	49,811	21,614	26,630	25,542	17,340
Spain ...	65,400	42,184	35,303	34,254	22,568
Mexico ...	25,900	18,896	5,425	7,918	9,571
Colombia ...	14,100	14,588	10,780	10,146	1,701
Other foreign countries ...	66,681	95,835	151,161	67,101	111,127
	527,192	439,705	638,828	323,142	650,557
Total to British possessions ...	29,200	21,428	38,600	27,759	24,500
	556,392	461,133	677,428	350,901	675,057
	£17,261	£12,609	£16,559	£9,469	£15,997

It is common knowledge that with the extension of rubber cultivation in Ceylon, owners of cinnamon plantations in suitable localities have found it to their advantage to root out cinnamon and plant either rubber or coconuts. Indeed, it is stated that 25 per cent. of the plantations have been rooted out. The effect of this policy has not yet been reflected on exports or prices, but this may be apparent later. Many years ago cinnamon was a favourite and profitable branch of the spice trade in London, but direct trading with the principal consuming countries has reduced the business to a negligible quantity. Formerly large quantities came to London to be re-shipped to Mediterranean and other ports, but the figures already given show the unimportance of this trade. Apart from the weekly spice sales, where cinnamon is offered, there are four quarterly auctions in London in February, May, August and November, but very little importance is attached to them, and they have little influence on the market, owing to the unimportant quantities offered—*e.g.*, at the February sale reported in last week's *C. & D.* only eighty bales were offered, of which twenty-three only sold. Several attempts have been made to abolish these quarterly sales and include the offerings with the weekly spice auctions; but, strange to say, although the observance of them is a farce, there is a reluctance to depart from the existing system. Two or three decades ago the periodical sales of cinnamon would include from 5,000 to 8,000 bales of Ceylon in a single batch, which would sell at perhaps from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per lb. for firsts, 1s. to 2s. 6d. for seconds, and 9d. to 2s. for thirds. Going still further back, from 4s. to 4s. 6d. was paid for choice quality. Within recent years the quality of cinnamon has undoubtedly fallen off, there being much more "woody" stuff than formerly, and this is difficult to get rid of. Quills are usually graded into four qualities—first, second, third, and fourth. Plantation firsts consist of the finest and thinnest quills, which are usually put on the outside of the bundles, and fourths consist of coarse, thick and broken quill. When cinnamon is sold to arrive, the buyer purchases on "usual assortment" terms, in bales of 100 lb. net, which indicates that he will receive 20 lb. firsts, 50 lb. of seconds, 26 lb. thirds, and 4 lb. fourths. Finally, we may add that the outlook for an expansion of the cinnamon trade is not hopeful, and, in fact, its decadence at the Port of London is not an affair of yesterday.

A READY-RECKONER for Insurance prescription pricing is the *C. & D.* card, price 6d., by post 7d., from 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland.

THE annual meeting was held on February 25 at the Society's rooms, 11 Waring Street, Belfast. Mr. John Frackelton (President) occupied the chair, and the attendance included Messrs. Wm. Haslett, Wm. Martin, D. Chapman (Portadown), H. Marshall, Saml. Suffern, J. D. Carse, S. Nevin, R. Cambridge, J.P. (Carrickfergus), D. O. Perry, J. Walsh, F. Boyle, W. J. Gibson (Hon. Treasurer), D. A. Taylor, R. A. Jamison, and W. J. Rankin (Hon. Secretaries). The minutes of the last annual meeting having been read and adopted, Mr. Rankin submitted the

ANNUAL REPORT,

of which the following embodies the chief features:

The Membership has been well maintained and continues to increase. Meetings of the committee have been held regularly, and matters of importance and interest to the trade considered from time to time.

Law and Parliamentary.—The Shops Act, which came into force during the year, while proving a great boon to the employé in the retail business, has not been working so smoothly in the interest of the employer as was generally expected. It is noted that whereas a closing order had been made by the local authority on the vote of the majority of chemists and druggists in the city, more than half continue to disobey the law. The result of this has been that those who did close are again opening on the half-holiday. The committee regret that a firm position on the matter is not taken up by traders, who should either conform to the order or take steps to obtain total exemption, which can be done with a majority of three-quarters of the shopkeepers.

National Insurance Act.—The committee reported last year that Ireland had been exempted from the Medical Benefit as provided for England, Scotland, and Wales, largely through the committee's opposition, and also because there is available in Ireland a supply of medicines, etc., under the Medical Charities Act, which is paid for partly by Government and partly by the ratepayers. The committee regret to find that certain interested parties are now asking that Ireland be granted the Medical Benefit, and the Government have appointed a Committee of Inquiry to hear evidence from those interested. This committee has informed the Secretary to the Commission that it is desired to give evidence on behalf of the members. It is the committee's intention to oppose in every way possible the extension of medical benefit to Ireland, unless the position of chemists and druggists and registered druggists can be equitably arranged as regards participation in the supply of medicines, drugs, and appliances; otherwise members would suffer serious injustice and be deprived to a large extent of their means of earning a living. The committee would appreciate very much any assistance that the members can afford, either by communicating their views or communicating with their members of Parliament, so as to enlighten them on the position of members.

Congratulation.—The committee desire to record with pleasure the honour conferred on one of the ex-Presidents, Mr. Robert Cambridge, J.P., who has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace, on the recommendation of the Earl of Shaftesbury, his Majesty's Lieutenant; and they tender him their hearty congratulations, and wish him long life to administer justice tempered with mercy.

Haslett Medal.—The sixth Sir James Haslett gold medal has been won by Mr. Herbert M. Roberts, he being the registered druggists' student who obtained highest marks during the year 1912.

Social.—The President and Mrs. Frackelton entertained the members and friends in the Society's rooms during the winter, and in the summer to a picnic to Blackhead, co. Antrim.

Other Matters.—The advertising in the Society's rooms have been in charge of Mr. Frackelton, who reports that the revenue has been well maintained. Mr. Samuel Gibson, J.P., has represented the Society in the Chamber of Commerce during 1912.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. W. J. Gibson presented the financial statement, which showed a substantial balance to credit. Mr. R. A. Jamison read the report of the Haslett Medical Committee. Mr. Frackelton presented the report of the House Committee, which was very satisfactory, and several members bore testimony to the President's untiring endeavours to keep the funds of that department equal to those of other years.

The various reports were adopted on the motion of Mr. Cambridge, seconded by Mr. Haslett.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Wm. Haslett proposed that Mr. Saml. Suffern be President for the ensuing year. Mr. Boyle seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. Suffern, in reply, said he would do his best, with the assistance of the committee.

The following were elected Vice-Presidents on the motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Chapman: Messrs. Wm. Jamison, M.C.P.S.I., Mr. McMullan, S. Gibson, J.P., Wm. Haslett, Jacob Walsh, Saml. McDowell, Robt. Cambridge, J.P., J. D. Carse, John Frackelton, and D. A. Taylor.

Mr. Rankin asked the meeting to relieve him from the duties of Hon. Secretary of the Society owing to the unceasing demands of his business. The meeting reluctantly agreed, and on the motion of Mr. Cambridge, seconded by Mr. Chapman, Mr. Wm. Martin was appointed co-secretary with Mr. Jamison. Mr. Cambridge moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Rankin for his services to the Society during the last twenty-seven years. Mr. Haslett seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. W. J. Gibson and others and passed. Mr. Rankin acknowledged the vote, and it was unanimously

decided to add his name to the list of Vice-Presidents.

On the motion of Mr. Haslett, seconded by Mr. Suffern, Mr. W. J. Gibson was re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

The committee was appointed as follows: Messrs. W. J. Busby, F. A. Boyle, D. Chapman (Portadown), J. Guthrie, John Gray, A. R. Hogg, George Johnson, Hugh Marshall, J. Moffett, David Manson, J. Macauley, S. Nevin, W. H. R. Orr, Jas. Richardson, T. W. Reynolds, R. Spence (Castleblaney), W. E. Wilson, D. O. Perry, A. R. A. Davis, F. Lindsay, and R. Mulligan. Messrs. Gamble and Busby were re-appointed auditors, and Mr. Saml. Gibson, J.P., was re-elected to represent the Society at the Belfast Chamber of Commerce.

This concluded the proceedings.



MR. SAMUEL SUFFERN, the new President, has long been one of the leading members of the Society. He began his career in the trade in 1886 with Morrow & Robinson, Peter's Hall, Belfast, and afterwards served for several years with W. H. Bell & Co. and J. & J. Haslett, Ltd., North Street. He set up in business for himself in the 'nineties as a registered druggist at 328 Shankill Road, and afterwards opened a branch at Oldpark Road. Some years ago he disposed of this branch, and he now carries on the business in Shankill Road, with a branch recently acquired at 285 Springfield Road. Mr. Suffern is one of the hard workers in the Society, and his election to the presidential chair is a well-merited recognition of his services to the trade.

Synthetic Sentences.

Coinced from words selected from the advertisements in the "C. & D. Diary, 1913," and sent in competition for six half-guineas.

Pharmacy is the art of the cook, highly specialised, and directed by the hand of science.—*John Raffan* (Huntly).

The pharmacist of the future must keep step in the march of progress.—*W. A. Harrison* (Canterbury).

I do not believe there is any city where pharmacy stands so high as in Edinburgh.—*H. M. Robin* (Edinburgh).

It is not the amount taken at the counter that pays, but profit on money taken.—*John Griffith* (Holyhead).

The successful pharmacist must carry a minimum of stock and still supply everything in his line.—*J. T. Walters* (London, E.C.).

A Dublin Pharmacy.



THE Medical Hall of J. J. Graham & Co., 30 Westmoreland Street, Dublin, was founded in 1821. The present owner, Dr. J. A. Walsh, Past-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, has recently completed the renovation of the premises, outside and inside, Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., having done the work for him. The new front is shown in the initial letter, and we append photographs of the interior. The front is on

an emerald-pearl granite base, the sashes being of Cuba mahogany, with circular end in doorway. The portion



over the transome is relieved with tracery work, the shop door and fanlight being similarly treated. The entrance is laid with mosaic, with Sicilian marble steps. The soffit of the doorway is panelled with silver plates, and the window enclosures are fitted with glass shelves and polished parquetry bottoms.

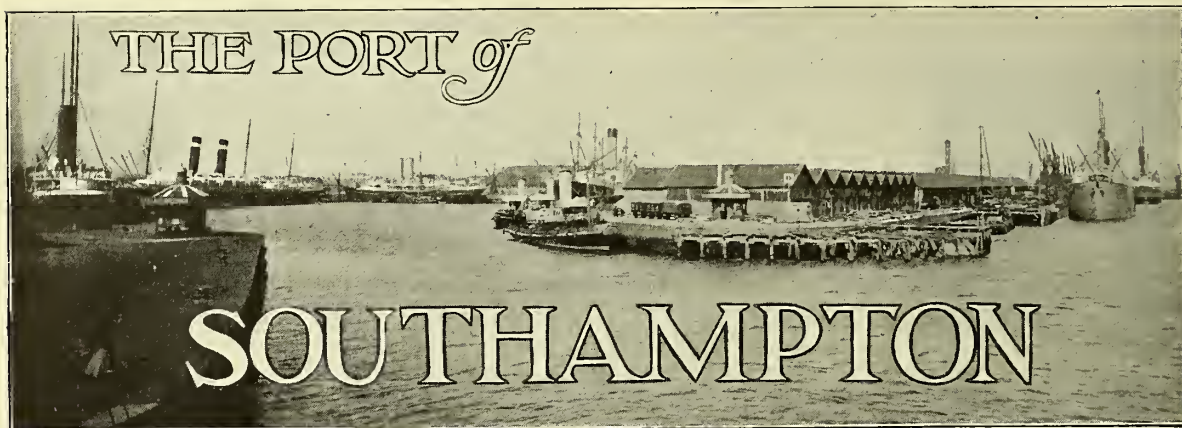
The interior has been fitted with new cases and counters, the latter having clear glass tops and fronts with glass shelves inside. The floor has been laid with tiles of a neat design, with coloured border in front of fittings. It may be pointed out that the backs of the window enclosures are clear bevelled glass all the way down. This allows plenty of light inside, and also allows passers by to see that business is being done inside. The window enclosures are 2 ft. deep. The portion of the shop outside the counters goes back 30 ft., as shown in the larger picture. There are three openings in counters—one between the window enclosure and a glass case which faces the window and forms a background to it. (See smaller picture.) This is filled with perfumes; it has a mirrored back, and can be seen from the outside window right through. Then follows a glass counter with curve at the lower part. This case is 11 ft. long by 2 ft. wide. With an opening of 2 ft. comes a second glass counter, also 11 ft. long; at the end of which, and separating it from the sponge-case at the end, is a third opening. The sponge-case consists of four draw-out cases for different sizes of sponge, and is surmounted by dispensing-screen, which is de-

signedly kept low to allow the office and compounding department at the end of the 30-ft. way to be seen. It was found formerly that high screens had the effect of shutting off from view the assistants engaged in compounding, etc., which sometimes gave an appearance of emptiness to the place; now all can be seen. The office portion just behind the dispensing-screen is 7 ft. deep, and the compounding department to the back of that again is 17 ft. deep and 12½ ft. wide. The dispensing-counter is in the centre, and it is lighted by a glass roof which extends over it all. It is sufficiently large to allow four compounders to work at a time; two at each side. There is a mahogany upright case at the front and back, with drawers and shelves for pills, capsules, and small accessories; while the body of the counter contains presses for dispensing bottles, pots, pill-machines, and other requisites. There is also a writing-in desk in the compounding department with room for two assistants. The space underneath holds the more recent dispensing-books—older books, extending back without a break to July 1821, are shelved in an inner office just off the compounding-room, where also the telephone is placed conveniently for the staff to attend to. On the right-hand side of the shop are glass presses from the door right down to the sponge case, 30 ft. in all. The lower portion of these is new. The clock and gallery are old features which have not been disturbed. They are ornamented in the style of the Georgian period, and are much admired



by connoisseurs. The windows now have a much more attractive appearance than formerly, when there was only one, and it was hidden to a great extent by massive pilasters. The improvement of the premises, through the recent alterations, is the subject of general comment by the *clientèle* of the firm, and is effecting a steady increase in the volume of counter-work done. We may recall the fact that in a recent issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST was reproduced in facsimile a letter by Dr. Walsh to Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher and Webb, Ltd., expressing appreciation of the manner in which the refitting work has been done.

NGAI CAMPHOR.—The manufacture of Ngai camphor is the subject of an article in the "Journal of the Royal Society of Arts," the information being chiefly based on the report of an American Consul at Rangoon, who states that the average annual output in the Mong Hai district of the State of Keng Hung, Chinese territory, bordering on the State of Kengtung, Southern Shan States, is between 14,000 lb. and 15,000 lb. Although *Blumea* or Ngai camphor from *Blumea balsamifera* is very common in Burma, and springs up wherever forests have been cleared, a factory requiring a few tons a month would soon exhaust the available supply of raw material.



WITHIN two hours' journey from London by rail, the port of Southampton may be looked upon as one of the tentacles of the world's greatest city, for much of its inward and outward trade passes to and from London, and much of it has its origin at this centre. During the past two decades the port has rapidly come to the front, thanks to the enterprise of the London and South-Western Railway Company and the shipping companies. The Atlantic traffic in particular has grown enormously, so much so that the port has become a keen competitor with Liverpool in this branch, but rather from a passenger than cargo point of view. This increase is continuous, and the port is gradually becoming the centre of the North Atlantic passenger trade, because of its proximity to London and the French port of Cherbourg. It must, however, be said that this traffic does not benefit to more than a slight extent the shopkeepers of Southampton, because the town is not a stopping-place in the business sense; for many passengers do not land, and those who do take train straight to London or other destination by rail.

The largest vessels in the world, such as the steamers of the White Star line, the North German Lloyd, and the Hamburg-American, make Southampton a port of call, owing to the great depth of water always found at the docks and in the harbour. It was from this port that the ill-fated *Titanic* sailed on her first and last voyage. Her sister ship, the *Olympic*, has berthed here often, towering above the quay to the extent of five decks. The *Imperator* (50,000 tons, and 919 feet long), belonging to the Hamburg-America line, and so far the largest ship built, when ready will call at Southampton. This vessel is to surpass all standards for size, luxury, and safety at sea; among its attractions will be an elaborate

Roman bath, gymnasium, squash court, sun parlour, and verandah café. These German lines carry only saloon Atlantic passengers, and pride themselves that they do not carry cargo. A red-letter day in the history of Southampton occurred in 1907, when the White Star line New York service was transferred from Liverpool, and a weekly service inaugurated; but prior to this (in 1893), the American (better known as the Inman) line was transferred to Southampton. These lines, together with the Atlantic Transport Company's vessels, which also sail to and from London and Southampton, form part of the International Mercantile Marine Steamship Company. The extent of the Atlantic traffic in passengers may be gauged by the fact that during 1910 304,000 passengers came in or out of the Southampton docks, either by domiciled vessels or calling steamers. Among the other steamship companies which have sailings from the port are: Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Union Castle Mail Steamship Co., Ltd., Cunard Line to Canada, Norddeutscher Lloyd, General Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., and Elder Dempster & Co.

To Britishers, on holiday from South Africa, Southampton means a haven of rest. As they leave it and pass through Hampshire by train the glories of old England are before their eyes, and this first glance renews the home feeling.

THE DOCKS.

The modern history of the Southampton Docks may be said to date from 1892, when the old Dock Company, unable to raise money to construct new docks, approached the London and South Western Railway Company to take them over. No sooner had they passed into the hands of the company than the construction of new graving docks commenced, and these have gone on steadily until acre after acre has been covered, the area of the dock estate being now over 250 acres. The quays measure lineal 18,000 feet. the cargo and passenger



THE OUTER DOCK.

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shed area is 990,000 square feet vault accommodation, floor area 110,000 square feet, grain warehouse area 78,000 square feet, timber storage shed area, 190,000 square feet, length of railway sidings 36 miles, and area of dock estate 250 acres. The number of vessels which put into the port in 1911 was 3,572 with a net tonnage of 4,010,648 tons and a gross tonnage of 7,884,723 tons; while the cargoes dealt with in the same period totalled 671,220 tons inwards and 597,039 tons outwards. Over 250,000 packages of mails passed outwards and more than 66,000 inwards. The Outer Dock, of which we give an illustration, furnishes accommodation for the smaller classes of shipping, including the London and South Western Railway Company's own fleet trading to the Channel Islands and the French ports of Havre, St. Malo, Honfleur, and Cherbourg. Rotterdam and coastwise steamers and the Charente steamers are also dealt with here. At the old Extension Quay the outward Brazil steamers of the R.M.S.P. Co., the outward vessels of the Union Castle line, and Cunard (Thomson line Canadian) steamers take in their cargoes. The Eastern Quay of the Empress Dock is the berth at which the homeward steamers of the Union Castle line discharge; it is also used for the outward Continental steamers of the Union Castle and R.M.S.P. Co. and the Cork steamers. The North-German Lloyd, intermediate Cape steamers, and Direct East African steamers of the Union Castle line, the Deutsche Ost-Afrika line, and the Bordeaux steamers are berthed at the Prince of Wales quay. South Quay is devoted principally to the steamers engaged in the Java and Dutch East Indies trade belonging to the Nederland Steamship Company and the Rotterdam Lloyd. The new 16-acre dock is the European terminus of the White Star liners; this new basin is 1,700 feet long, 400 feet wide, and has a depth of 40 feet at low water, making it the deepest dock in the country, and sufficient to accommodate the *Olympic* and other mammoth liners.

COLONIAL TRADE.

The bulk of South African trade goes through Southampton. Especially has this been the case since Donald Currie & Co. removed their sailing port from London on amalgamation with their rivals, the Union Steamship Co., whose headquarters were Southampton. This pooling of interests proved of immense advantage to the port, and although it has many of the faults of a monopoly, amalgamation has made a considerable improvement in the services to South and East Africa. Within recent months a service to the East Coast of Africa *via* Suez was started, and has met with encouraging success. Not so long ago we were dependent on Hamburg for the bulk of our imports of produce from Zanzibar, Mombasa, etc., as there was no direct steamship communication with this country, but this is now altered, thanks to the Union Castle line, who are giving a magnificent service *via* Suez regularly to Mombasa, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Chinde, Beira, Delagoa Bay, and Durban. An idea of the cargo brought to Southampton from South Africa may be seen from the following manifest:

KINFAUNS CASTLE, s. @ NATAL, &c

of London, 226 men, Mosley, 5037, Union Castle Co
@ Durban
1395 pkgs s. wool, 23 pkgs mohair, 20 pkgs skins, 530 pkgs hides, 16 pkgs horns, 7 pkgs old metal, 170 pkgs pines, 20 pkgs dental goods, 30 pkgs m'dize
@ East London
620 pkgs wool, 6 pkgs mchnry, 1 pkge chocolate
@ Algoa Bay
1728 pkgs wool, 179 pkgs mohair, 753 pkgs skins, 75 pkgs hides, 65 pkgs tubes, 25 pkgs ostrich feathers, 30 pkgs plants, 20 pkgs m'dize
19 pkgs m'dize in tr.
@ Mossel Bay
183 pkgs skins, 25 pkgs aloes, 31 pkgs ostrich feathers
@ Cape Town
343 pkgs wool, 338 pkgs skins, 10 pkgs buchu, 103 pkgs hides, 6 pkgs horns, 690 pkgs peaches, 659 pkgs plums, 263 pkgs pears, 214 pkgs apricots, 6 pkgs ostrich feathers, 50 pkgs m'dize, 63 pkgs nectarines, 15 bags argol
5 pkgs m'dize in tr.
@ Madeira
1567 pkgs beans, 53 pkgs fruit, 15 pkgs potatoes, 1 csk wine

Aloe, buchu leaves, and argol are practically the only articles of interest to the drug trade which reach us from the Cape. These goods on arrival at Southampton are conveyed by the London and South Western Railway Co. by rail to London free of charge, and are there deposited either at the London Dock or the New Street Warehouses of the Port of London Authority, according to instructions, and such is the quick despatch and facilities offered by the railway that importers have little cause to complain. Southampton is the headquarters of the West Indian trade, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, familiarly known as the R.M.S.P., having been identified with the port since its inauguration. This line practically covers the whole of the West Indian Islands, also several South American ports such as Colon, Panama, Guayaquil, Cartagena, and Brazilian ports. Part of our supplies of ipecacuanha, sarsaparilla, lime juice, lime oil, arrowroot, pimento, tamarinds, and, in fact, many West Indian spices are brought to Southampton by these weekly mail steamers, but the bulk of them pass through on their way to London.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The latest particulars concerning the imports and exports of the port compiled by the Statistical Office of the Customs House are those for 1911. Taking the imports first, we find that the value of *chemical manufactures and products* was 21,560*l.*, to which the United States contributed 5,478*l.*, Natal 7,761*l.*, and "other countries" 8,321*l.* *Unenumerated drugs* were valued at 125,411*l.*, of which the United States contributed 80,101*l.*, Cape of Good Hope 23,555*l.*, Spain 6,669*l.*, Brazil 6,086*l.*, Uruguay 3,668*l.*, and other countries 5,237*l.*; the value of unenumerated spices imported was 18,659*l.*, drawn from the British West Indies, and of ginger, which is separately enumerated, the imports, also from the British West Indies, were 11,656*l.* *Rubber* imports were valued at 343,454*l.*, mostly from Brazil and Uruguay, and of natural *indigo* 3,917*l.* worth entered the port. Turning to the exports, the value of the trade in medicines was 116,678*l.*, the destinations being as follows: South Africa 28,312*l.*, Brazil 24,038*l.*, Argentine Republic 7,456*l.*, United States 7,103*l.*, British West Indies 3,355*l.*, Java 2,176*l.*, British Guiana 638*l.*, and France 156*l.* *Chemical Products (except coal products)* show exports of 59,451*l.* (total exports of U.K. 7,671,610*l.*), these being divisible between South Africa 14,198*l.*, Argentine Republic 10,358*l.*, Dutch East Indies 4,794*l.*, British West Indies 1,439*l.*, France 1,277*l.*, United States (Atl.) 1,304*l.*, etc. *Perfumery* exports were valued at 33,677*l.*, the U.S.A. (4,875*l.*) and South Africa (5,547*l.*) being the principal destinations. Of *painters' colours* the exports were 41,194*l.* (total exports U.K. 2,827,958*l.*), the chief absorbing countries being Brazil and the United States; to Brazil was shipped 13,294*l.* worth of *seed oils* out of a total of 16,582*l.*, and of all other sorts of oils 11,013*l.* worth left the port. *Soap* (all sorts) were valued at 42,591*l.*, the United States (Atl.) receiving 13,056*l.*; other items were *candles* 8,958*l.*, *rubber manufactures* 112,666*l.*, *cocoa* 16,252*l.*, condensed milk 385,285*l.*, British and Irish spirits 183,672*l.*, molasses 4,744*l.*, and confectionery 158,912*l.* Among the products trans-shipped at Southampton the following occur: Unenumerated *drugs* valued at 45,409*l.*, of which 24,476*l.* were for the United States, and of *opium* trans-shipped the value was 9,760*l.*, which left for the United States 4,167*l.*, British West Indies 1,233*l.*, and British Guiana 347*l.*; *gum* was shipped *in tr.* to the United States to the extent of 36,027*l.* out of a total of 39,532*l.*, and of *sponge* 6,506*l.* was trans-shipped to the United States out of a total of 8,212*l.* These figures represent produce bought on the primary markets for U.S.A. account and shipped in British bottoms on through bill of lading, and cannot, of course, be classified with re-export trade.

The Customs authorities have a laboratory where commodities known or suspected to contain alcohol, sugar, or other dutiable articles are examined. The laboratory is situated in the Customs House, a handsome building situated at the entrance to the docks, and it is well equipped with distillation apparatus, polarimeters, and the like. A large number of medicinal preparations, toilet articles, and perfumery are examined here for alcohol, saccharin, and sugar.

Pyorrhoea Alveolaris.

THIS disorder of the gums was first diagnosed in 1844 by Dr. J. M. Riggs, of Hartford, Conn., U.S.A., and, being associated with his name, is sometimes called Riggs' disease.

The name *Pyorrhoea Alveolaris* is now generally used to describe a certain disease of the tissues around the teeth, although the name itself only describes one of the later stages of the affection, and it might easily be applied to any condition of the gums where a discharge of pus is present.

Two conditions must always be present to produce pyorrhoea, a pre-disposing cause and a local irritation. In the first instance the tissues surrounding the teeth must be susceptible to a breaking down or suppurative process; in this connection any condition which lowers the vitality of the patient will be a predisposing cause, such as syphilis, tubercle, the exhaustion of acute specific fevers, and anæmia. The reason for this is that the circulation will first fail in the remotest capillaries, such as those of the peridental membrane, and thus these tissues are rendered less resistant. In the second condition there must be some local irritation, so that infection of the surface of the mucous membrane will take place. The exciting cause is usually a gingivitis, and this may be brought about by malocclusion of the teeth, food decomposing between the teeth and pressing on the gums, ill-fitting clasps or partial dentures, fillings improperly finished at the cervical edges, irregularity of the teeth, wounding of the gums between the teeth with tooth-picks, patients undergoing treatment with drugs such as mercury or potassium iodide (in this case the gingival organs seem to have a selective power of excreting these from the blood), and calcium salts in the minutest particles. All these produce a gingivitis or inflammation of the gums, followed later by suppuration; pus pockets are formed, the gum becomes detached from its connection, and it and the alveolus are gradually absorbed, leaving the roots of the teeth bare, with ultimate loosening and loss of the teeth. Once suppuration has started, the calcium salts deposited develop more rapidly and increase in the direction of the roots; 75 per cent. of pyorrhœal cases are probably caused by calcium salts deposited in minute quantities at first, under the free margin of the gum, which have never been thoroughly removed when the teeth have been cleaned.

Pyorrhœa is seen at any age, and it is quite wrong to consider that it is only seen in middle life. Young people do not suffer from it to the same extent as older persons, because the disease has not had as long to develop. In a youth who has just reached maturity the calcium salts, which have been used to build up bone tissue are not required to the same extent by the system, and they are thus excreted from the body. The saliva has its share of these salts to expel, and as it comes into contact with the free ammonia, which is always present in the alimentary canal, the calcium salts are precipitated and lodge in the most convenient places to be found, frequently the backs of the lower front teeth and the buccal surfaces of the upper molar teeth. This deposit of the salts, known as tartar, keeps the peridental membrane and the gums in a chronic state of irritation and inflammation, and the deposit slowly and continually increases. It is no exaggeration to say that probably 80 per cent. of patients have pyorrhœal mouths, and that if dentists inspected the teeth and gums more carefully many of these cases could be treated from the beginning of the disease and be cured quickly. The unfortunate thing is that most frequently nothing is done, and although a gingivitis may be noticed, it is neglected until suppuration has started and the mischief thoroughly begun.

Gingivitis or inflammation of the gums is produced either by tartar deposits or other causes, and is familiar to all. Slight at first, it develops into tumid, reddened, and spongy gums, bleeding at the slightest touch or when brushing the teeth. The result of this inflammation is an accumulation of leucocytes at the part and proliferation

of the connective tissue elements. The blood supply is interfered with, and the part begins to break down with the formation of a cavity or pocket between the alveolus and the root of the tooth. Infection after this stage soon takes place by pus forming organisms, and the pockets are filled with pus, a true pyorrhœa resulting. These pockets may be single or multiple, they run alongside the roots toward the apex and slowly widen and encircle the roots; simultaneously absorption of the alveolar wall takes place, and the root is gradually exposed, the result being total loss of the tooth.

The disease spreads more or less rapidly from one tooth to another, so that the number of teeth affected depends on the severity of the attack. Many practitioners have connected pyorrhœa with some constitutional maladies, such as rheumatism and gout, and while it is still doubtful whether pyorrhœa is caused by these affections, it can be stated quite truthfully that pyorrhœa has caused these troubles to begin. It is now being recognised that pyorrhœa has a most serious effect on the general constitution of the patient.

It is impossible to go into the various troubles which have been traced to pyorrhœa, but it is interesting and instructive to note some which have had their origin from it, such as dyspepsia, colitis, nephritis, neurasthenia, gout, rheumatism, septic endocarditis, appendicular, pleuritic, gall bladder, and pyelitic inflammations.

IN THE TREATMENT

of this disease it is necessary to ascertain if the condition is purely local, or if there is any constitutional condition which requires attention as well. As to the local condition, the cause of the gingivitis must be removed, malocclusion must be corrected, and improperly constructed crowns, bridges, fillings, and plates must be removed and replaced by such as are properly made.

In the early stages, and if noticed during the first stage before any infection is present, treatment is generally successful. A great deal depends on the co-operation of the patient. Any tartar which may be present is thoroughly removed, the teeth polished smooth, and an astringent applied to the inner margin of the gums. The patient must wash the mouth daily with an antiseptic lotion. The best astringent for the gums is powdered sulphate of copper. This is packed under the gums of the teeth which are being treated by means of small wooden points. A blue line above the margin of the gum shows when the operation is properly done. The patient, after washing out the mouth with warm water, is then dismissed until the next visit with a prescription for an antiseptic and astringent mouth-wash. This packing of the gums with the sulphate of copper is continued for several visits in succession, and then at intervals until a cure is effected.

Various sets of instruments are required for the removal of tartar. At all times perfect control of the instrument must be kept, in order to prevent any sudden movement which might damage the surrounding tissues. Some of these sealing instruments are used with a pulling, others with a pushing motion. It is most important that all tartar be thoroughly removed, as any small portion left continues the irritation and prevents healing. The pockets around the teeth must be explored for any nodules of tartar adhering to the roots.

After removal of the tartar peroxide of hydrogen may be syringed round the teeth and pockets, as this helps to wash out any loose particles which may be still there. When the teeth have been thoroughly cleaned and polished, the pockets have to be medicinally treated to cause them to heal and to try to induce the gum to adhere to the teeth. Various drugs may be used for this purpose, and the essential oils are useful. The tissues are often benefited by stimulating with iodine or lactic acid. Bismuth paste makes a very good dressing for filling the pockets—it helps the healing and keeps out all *débris*. Many visits will be required before a cure is effected.

The patient should be instructed, while this treatment is going on, how to clean the teeth thoroughly with brush, floss silk, etc.; also how to massage the gums, so as to produce a healthy condition. Rubbing daily with

wood points and a little powder will keep the parts of the teeth which the tooth-brush fails to reach in a highly polished condition.

It is advisable to extract teeth which may be very loose, although splinting them together to firm teeth, while treatment is going on, may save some. The constitutional treatment has to be directed to the condition present at the time, whether rheumatism and gout, anæmia, or other ailment. Vaccine treatment of *pyorrhæa alveolaris* has been coming to the front in recent years, and there is undoubtedly a future for it. The vaccine is prepared from the pus which exudes from the gums, after determination of the opsonic index of the blood as regards each of the organisms present. During the local treatment the vaccine is injected subcutaneously. It has proved to be efficacious, even in advanced cases, pus formation ceases, and those teeth which were loose can be used without any pain or discomfort. Two or three injections of the vaccine may be required before a cure is effected, the strength of which depends on the general symptoms exhibited by the patient.

Woolballs in Lambs.

Symptoms, Prevention, and Treatment.

By M.R.C.V.S.

JUDGING from the discussions that frequently occur in agricultural papers, the subject of woolballs in lambs is of great importance to flock-masters. Numerous theories have been promulgated as to their cause. Some owners maintain that the animals get the wool off the ewe, others that they collect it from the ground, fences, &c.; while others assert that they lick it off themselves. The first two suggestions are most consistent, and may be considered. The last may be discarded altogether, for if a woolball be examined it will be found to consist of much longer wool than that of the lamb, so that, although it is not impossible for the lamb to gather wool off itself, it is a very rare and uncommon practice.

Everyone acquainted with sheep is aware that at the time of lambing ewes are very susceptible to shedding of the wool; it can be pulled out quite easily, so that the lamb has every opportunity and cannot escape the insertion of it in its mouth from the region of the udder when sucking. It must be borne in mind that a very large percentage of lambs have wool in their stomachs, as has been proved by opening them.

The symptoms are the same as other factors that produce irritation of the stomach, viz. excitement, difficulty of movement, loss of appetite, dullness, and giddiness, but death may ensue before any visible symptom is observed.

PREVENTION.—In the first place, it is not natural to confine sheep in fields fenced and penned, and too many flocks of lambing ewes are kept in too small space. The ground becomes dirty and the wool adheres to the walls and fences; in such circumstances woolballing is more common among them than amongst hill-fed sheep. Lambs are often kept closely penned up from birth until they are old enough to take the run of the field; thus they have every opportunity, and do pick up the wool from the ground and other places. If wool is shed on hill pastures, where the bounds are ample, it may be days or weeks before it comes within reach of the lambs, and by that time it is bunched and is not so easily and readily partaken of.

The best method of prevention is to look well after all loose wool, gather it regularly from the ground, fences, posts, etc., and pluck all slack from the udder of the ewes, so as to give plenty of scope for the lambs feeding. Careful dipping also has a beneficial effect in the prevention of balling, and compulsory dipping will undoubtedly do good in this direction, as usually a good number of parasites are found on the skin of lambs, which they often swallow, and they form a nucleus for the formation of the ball. Of course, it may be difficult to dip a ewe verging on lambing, but by careful and cautious handling at this critical period it may be managed with safety. The old-fashioned method of smearing might be resorted to as an alternative. It is asserted that the skin parasites of

sheep are very tenacious and die hard; therefore dips containing carbolic are most reliable, as sheep parasites are largely composed of albumen, and if a dip containing carbolic comes in contact with the albumen the result is immediate coagulation. The eggs and insects hatch after careless or insufficient dipping, and are not so easily destroyed, and can feed with perfect safety on the fleece when the dip has dried. The temperature of the body and atmospheric influences combine to destroy completely the other ingredients of the dip in a few days; therefore it is evident that repeated dipping is essential, and too much attention cannot be given to dipping, as it goes a long way towards the prevention of woolballing.

TREATMENT.—There is practically no certain medicinal cure. Oil, anodynes, nitromuriatic acid, and enemas may be given, but they are of little avail if the ball be of fair size. Surgically the ball can be removed, but as the operation is rather delicate, it can only be done by a veterinary surgeon, who has a thorough knowledge of the parts. It necessarily causes great expense, probably as much as the animal is worth, but if the patient be valuable and pedigreed it is essential that the operation should be performed.

The operation is by cutting into the abdomen on the median line immediately in front of the umbilicus, which exposes the fourth stomach, where the balls are usually lodged. Careful manipulation of this stomach will reveal if any is present or not. If so, a small incision over or above this is made and removal accomplished. The wounds are stitched as required, and the usual antiseptic and astringent dressings applied. Where this operation is carefully performed the mortality is very slight.

It has been questioned whether deaths caused by woolballs are common or if they cause death at all. No doubt it depends upon the situation within the stomach. The stomach of the sheep, like that of all other ruminants, is divided into four compartments, and death seldom occurs unless the ball is lodged in the fourth stomach; this compartment is often packed so full with wool that it completely blocks the outlet from the stomach to the bowels, and this undoubtedly causes death. The mere presence of wool in the other compartments will not cause death unless the amount be very large. It has been suggested that louping-ill is a factor in the cause of woolballs, but the one ailment has nothing whatever to do with the other.

Hitchin Lavender.



"The lavender-plant seems to thrive better on English soil than on any other. It is grown principally at Mitcham, in Surrey, and at Hitchin. At one time it was supposed that it would only come to perfection in the former locality; but during the last half-century Mr. Ransom and Mr. Perks, of Hitchin, have proved that the soil and character of their farms are even still more suited to its growth." This was said in the *C. & D.* fifty years ago (1863, p. 354). The above photograph, taken last summer on Messrs. W. Ransom & Son's farm at Hitchin, shows that cultivation of lavender there is still an important industry.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest.

Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance.

Appeal for Funds.

SIR,—At the last meeting of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance I was instructed to make an appeal through your columns for funds to carry on the work of the Committee. A large number of pharmacists throughout the country, in common with their fellows, have benefited by the work of the Committee in the past, and are relying on the Committee to defend their interests in the future, but up to the present time they have not in any way contributed towards the expenses of carrying out this necessary action. To these persons in particular the Standing Committee desires to appeal, and should, I think, be able to appeal with confidence. The funds of the Committee would be adequate if the contribution were made on the basis of 2s. 6d. per pharmacy on the panel, but as there are bound to be a number of pharmacists whom it is difficult to reach, contributions exceeding this sum will be welcomed, and should be sent to the undersigned at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.

Yours faithfully,

W. J. UGLOW WOOLCOCK, Secretary.

Insurance Dispensing.

SIR,—As far as Insurance dispensing is concerned I might almost say that I have "got left." I can hear the sound of the breakers, but only the wavelets reach me; and, though I am within ten miles of Charing Cross, I have probably had my business disturbed by the Insurance Act as little as any chemist in England. I average three or four prescriptions a day—just enough to make me think that I am necessary to the life of the nation. There are several doctors on the panel for my district, but they have done their best to co-operate with me, and have caused no trouble at all. At the outset I carefully explained to them that I could not send out Insurance medicines, and that each person must either bring a bottle or pay for one. The result is that every person visiting the pharmacy comes on the distinct understanding that he must either wait or send again for the physic, and that there will be a penny to pay for the bottle if one is not brought. The doctors wanted to write "Rept. mist.," and they wanted to use stock formulæ; their plea, of course, being that it takes up valuable time to write out the prescription in full on each occasion and is quite unnecessary. I agreed as to the waste of time, but was firm on the principle. My answer to all their objections has been "The Commissioners will not allow it," and there's an end on't. If they have ordered non-tariff articles on green forms, I have sent them back, and the result has been that they have deleted the non-tariff article and have stuck to the green form. I have got one pink script, but as it cost 2s. the doctors have never written another. It hangs as a warning to them on the file, where all may see it. They intend getting the floating sixpence in this district, and I am quite content that they should. It makes my own share all the more certain. I have had to purchase no extra labels, not even the little penny-deposit slips. I have only refunded a penny on one bottle. I have bought no extra appliances, I have spent not one penny on stock beyond the ordinary course. True, I am not getting the extra profit which the Insurance business brings to my busier brethren,

but when I hear of the trials of temper and dislocation of business which so many of them experience, I am glad to remain quietly in my little backwater, with leisure to help my fellow craftsmen when the occasion arises.

Yours truly,

PANELITE. (257-22.)

SIR,—The last few weeks have seen many suggestions which have been put forward with a view to the rapid dispensing, filing, and pricing of Insurance prescriptions. Excellent as they may be in themselves, they have one disadvantage—viz., they are not totally devoid of expense. The following system not only involves no expense whatever, but I find that by its use it is possible to price, file, and dispense an Insurance prescription in an average time of two minutes. The first essential is an old ledger—and which of us has not that? The second a little gum. There is nothing further needed, as the following remarks show:

Take your ledger and arrange it in alphabetical sections, making the sections larger or smaller in proportion as the initial of the surname is more or less common. Thus B should have a good share of the pages of the ledger, likewise M and the other more frequently occurring initials.

Your customer enters and hands in his prescription. His name is Jones, say. Very well. Turn to Jo. Put a dab of gum on the back end of the "Form B," and put it in the ledger. Put the Form A in a drawer reserved for the purpose. Write the name, date, and price on the top of Form B. Suppose the prescription dispensed (we will treat of this branch later), in walks another customer, of the same initial, say. His name is Johnson. Do the same with Johnson's Form B as with Jones's. An impossible coincidence—for the sake of illustration—brings you a Jonley, say, within the next ten minutes. Repeat the process. Your page will now run as illustration, and so on with the other initials.

The advantages to be derived from this method are obvious. In the first case you can, once the name is known, locate the prescription in question *immediately*. Secondly, since only the ends of the forms are gummed, it is possible to examine the details of the prescription by turning down the form which is superimposed. Finally, you have the satisfaction of knowing that all the prescriptions with which you have had to deal are in *one place*. Should you think it advisable, you could devote a new "old ledger," or, more correctly, a fresh "old ledger," to each year, writing the year (e.g., 1913) on the back.

With regard to the actual dispensing, as far as my experience has gone, nine out of ten prescriptions are for mixtures or liquids, so that if these can be dispensed quickly, practically the whole question of rapid dispensing is solved. Keep, therefore, in solution all chemicals in ordinary use; and as to those which are insoluble, keep them in suspension. The following list covers the solutions of chemicals in greatest demand:

Solutions 1 in 3 by taking of the respective salts (using Troy and Apothecaries').

3vj. 3v. 3j., and water to 40 oz.; or ʒiij. ʒij. ʒij., and water to 20 oz.

Label. 1 drachm contains 20 grains, 1 in 3.

Solutions, 1 in 6.

ʒiij. ʒij. ʒij., and water to 40 oz.

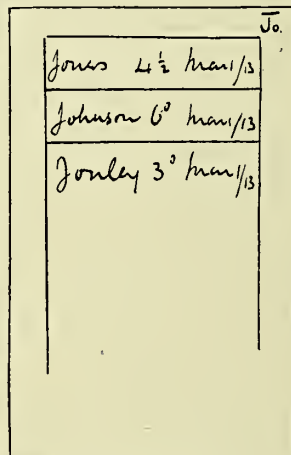
Label. 1 drachm contains 10 grains, 1 in 6.

1 IN 3.

Ammon. brom.	Potas. brom.
Ferri ammon. cit.	Potas. cit.
Ferri quin. cit.	Sod. brom.
Potas. iod.	

1 IN 6.

Ammon. carb.	Potas. bicarb.
Ammon. chlor.	Potas. nit.



Nota.—1. Solution of pot. iod. will not keep well in a weaker solution than 1 in 5.
2. Solutions of pot. cit. and fer. et quin. cit. are best made with chloroform-water, if to be kept long.

In conclusion, I may say that I have found by experience that the more practical course is to put the label on the bottle *before* beginning to dispense the prescription, thus reversing what is the usual course of procedure. Why? Because when a doctor prescribes to the dose one has by adopting this course a continuous memorandum before one's face of the ingredients required, or rather of the precise number of doses which the bottle is meant to contain.

W. B. ALLISON

(Formerly Chief Dispenser at the North Staffordshire Infirmary.)

Arundel.

Insurance Drug Tariff.

SIR,—In view of the fact that we shall probably have a new tariff very shortly, I should like to make a few remarks upon the one now in use.

Writing as one who has had considerable experience in the preparation of price lists I must express the opinion that the tariff shows signs of having been prepared with a lack of knowledge of everyday work and requirements, and contains many errors which could have been avoided. The method of calculating the prices has been so slavishly adhered to that the whole thing has been reduced to an absurdity. The $\frac{1}{2}d.$ should be eliminated where possible, and a system of give and take adopted. Such prices as liq. opii sed. $9\frac{1}{2}d.$ per oz., phenolphthalein 1s. $7\frac{1}{2}d.$, potas. iodid. 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}d.$, quinine hydrochl. 2s. $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, and thyroid sic. 5s. $11\frac{1}{2}d.$ are simply ridiculous. The following are a few items in which the prices, etc., require alteration:

Acid. gallic., picric, and tannic, all high.

Aquæ.—The charge for aq. dest. and aq. chlorof. does very well, but all the others are quoted in the wholesale list from two to three times the tariff price.

Betacain. Hydr.—Cost as cocaine. Why not the same price?

Bismuth Salts.—Might all have been priced the same.

Creosote and Digitalinum.—Prices too high.

Emuls. Ol. Morrhuæ.—Why not the emuls. c. hypophosph., which is the preparation always used?

Extracts.—Many of these priced too low.

Infusions.—The concentrated are always used by medical men, and should have been put in. These might be divided into two grades with advantage.

Iodoform.—Price high.

Ol. Terebinth.—B.P. article costs more.

Oxymel. Scillæ.—Price too low.

Phenolphthalein.—Price too high. Can be bought at $6d.$ per oz.

Pil. Ferri.—Price too low.

Sodii Iodid.—Costs only 2s. per lb. more than the potash salt.

Snt. Æther. Co.—Costs $6d.$ per oz.

Thyroid Sicc.—Can be bought at 2s. $8d.$ per oz. Better to have given $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 grain tablets.

DISPENSING CHARGES.

Mixtures.—The following should be added: Mixtures containing more than sixteen doses, a dispensing-fee of $3d.$

A dispensing-fee should be allowed on all solids. At present if you have ordered calomel gr. ij., the charge apparently is $\frac{1}{2}d.$; if two powders are ordered there is a fee of $2d.$

A dispensing-fee of $1d.$ should be allowed on all solids as above stated, and it might possibly be as well to price pills, etc., to allow of this being charged.

APPLIANCES.

Bandages (open weave).—Why not give $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., and why make these 4 yards length? There was no demand for 4 yards bandages, and they were not procurable from any wholesale house in the kingdom; 3 yards to 6 yards bandages would have been better.

Calico bandages, unbleached, only required, and in all widths, 3 yards and 6 yards.

Muslin and domette not required.

Gauzes.—If given at all should be in 1-yard lengths.

Ice-bags.—Circular.

Splints.—Not required.

In calculating prices for drugs, etc., purchased by the ounce, if $\frac{1}{2}$ were added to cost instead of $\frac{1}{10}$, it would simplify matters and not be too much.

Very faithfully yours,

W. T. TUCKER.

Dartford.

Farthings Given Away.

SIR,—I was very much astonished to read in the report of the Pharmaceutical Insurance Committee that they have recommended that "when the tariff price of a drug comes to exactly midway between the $1d.$ and $\frac{1}{2}d.$, the lower price should be charged." This does not appear to me to be a reasonable business-like proposition, especially as in many cases the tariff prices of drugs are absolutely below cost. I should be glad to hear some logical reason why the gift of these farthings (and they will be a very considerable number) should be made by the hardworked pharmacist to the wealthy State.

Yours truly,

Plymouth.

HOWARD VIBERT.

SIR,—I beg to be accorded the courtesy of your columns to register a protest against the amazing ruling of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee in regard to the charge to be made when an item happens to work out at, say, $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, to always charge the lower—i.e., $2d.$ It would be interesting to know by what process of reasoning the Committee arrived at this extraordinary decision. In order to expose the absurdity of it, it is only necessary to follow it to its logical conclusion and suppose that an item comes to $\frac{1}{2}d.$ or less (of which there are many), nothing is to be charged for it. Are the members of the Committee so well satisfied with the tariff that they are prepared to give away farthings in this reckless way? If they share the opinion almost universally held by pharmacists that the tariff needs revising upwards badly, they will find that they have prejudiced their case by not taking all that the present one legitimately gives them. Personally, I shall endeavour to be fair to myself as well as to the Insurance Committee, and disregard this ruling.

I am, yours, etc.,

EQUITY. (261/3.)

The Drug-tariff Ounce.

SIR,—In the paragraph in your issue of March 1, in which you are good enough to refer to the publication of "Dispensing Charges Simplified," alluding to our taking the 480-gr. ounce as the basis of calculations, you print in parentheses: "This is contrary to the principle of the tariff. See index folio 332." While it may be contrary to some interpretations of the tariff, we hold that it is strictly in accordance with the principles (such as they are) on which the tariff is based. It is fair to assume that the principles stated on page 1 for guidance in pricing articles outside the tariff are the principles on which tariff prices have been founded. Take, for example, caffein. cit., wholesale price is 1s. per avoird. oz. You are to add 4-10ths of this to get the proper price for an apoth. ounce. This brings out 1s. $5d.$, and 1s. $5d.$ is exactly the tariff price per ounce. Pepsin is a similar example. So are chloral-amid., calc. glycerophos., quin. hydroch., zinci valer., ext. ergotæ, etc. Moreover, as the divisor of pound quantities is expressly stated to be 11—and not 12, as in the case of liquids—it seems to us obvious that this is intended to cover the apoth. ounce, or it has no purpose at all.

Yours faithfully,

Glasgow.

GEO. SHIACH KITCHIN (Hon. Sec.).

[We had to consider all these points before we printed any dictum on the subject, and were finally guided by the official declaration, which was repeated by the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee last week—viz., "The tariff ounce is 437.5 grains."—EDITOR, C. & D.]

Insurance Prescription-writing.

SIR,—I read with interest your Editorial Article in the issue of February 22, and trust something will be done to retain at least a duplicate prescription. I quite fail to see how the doctors will have more to do writing a duplicate than one copy, it is only a matter of placing the carbon sheet between, and if only one copy is given it will mean increasing the clerical work for the pharmacist enormously, which is quite uncalled for as things are. In conversation with one of our local doctors, he said what they objected to most was the day-book, and he admitted that it was sometimes an advantage to have a copy of the prescription to refer to, and did not at all object to the triplicate. We might take a leaf from our Scottish friends' book, and I trust pressure will be brought to bear in the right quarter.

Yours truly,

Runcorn.

J. H. WESTON.

Stock Mixtures.

SIR,—“Xrayser II.” sides with Doncaster as against Portsmouth in the stock mixtures controversy. I had hoped that before this we should have had the matter thrashed out at Southampton, and have agreed to stand by Portsmouth. What the public are sick of is seeing or knowing—and they soon do know even if they do not actually see it done—their bottle filled up from another big bottle. I believe in letting the patient see, as far as possible, the five or six separate ingredients contained in the mixture go into their bottle one at a time. This gives them faith, and they often remark, “Well, that should do me good by what you’ve put in it,” and they feel that we really have dispensed something for them, and not done what the club doctor used to do—*i.e.*, fill one bottle from one other bottle. Besides, if we are going to use stock mixtures, the doctors will presently throw it up at us that they, or their unqualified dispensers, are quite equal to doing what the chemist does—*viz.*, fill medicine-bottles with ready-made stock mixtures. Let the doctors do the best they can for their Insurance patients, and they can only honestly do that by variation in the drugs and variation of doses of the drugs. It would certainly be impertinent on our part to object to making up anything a doctor cares to prescribe, but surely we have the right to say that we will not use stock mixtures, as it is certainly not in the best interests of the insured person that we should use them. “Xrayser II.” has a dig at proprietary remedies, but are not these on a par with our prescribing? We have had to go in for both to get a living as the doctors have been doing most of the dispensing in many districts. Give us our legitimate business, make us dispensers to the nation, and pay us properly for our work.

ONE FROM SOUTHAMPTON. (259/44.)

Chemists’ Assistants Coming to London.

SIR,—The Council of the Chemists’ Assistants’ Association gives a cordial invitation to chemists’ assistants who come to London from the provinces to communicate with the Secretary so that they may get into touch with their *confrères* in the metropolis. The Council has reason to believe, and the records of the Association for more than thirty years show, that it is a great advantage to young pharmacists coming to London to get quickly into touch with this Association, as thereby they are assured of agreeable confraternity once a week, while they often reap considerable business advantage by meeting with their *confrères*, besides being kept well informed in the progress of pharmacy. Communications sent to me at the address below will receive immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

W. ROBERTS (Hon. Secretary).

73 Newman Street, Oxford Street, W.

Chemists and Optical Business.

SIR,—In reply to a recent inquirer who asked about optical work, perhaps my case is somewhat like his, and may be of interest. For some time I was undecided “if it was worth while,” but the fact that a friend of mine about the same time was taking the Spectacle Makers’ examination made up my mind for me. But with two examining bodies, neither of which had any official status such as the Pharmaceutical Society has with regard to pharmacists, I resolved to trouble about neither, and to do the thing as well as I could, but also as cheaply as possible. Therefore my total outlay was at first for three books on the subject, and later on a trial case with unmounted lenses. This case had pairs of concave and convex lenses, but singles only of cylinders. In the meantime my friend had passed the examination, and with his help I got a little practical instruction for a week. Since then, with the help of an occasional advertisement in the local papers and happily a good deal of recommendation from customers, I have averaged probably about six cases a week, most of which required glasses, and personally I have found it quite worth while. The majority of people will take gold-filled frames if they can get them at a reasonable price, and I have always thought that to sell a pair of these at 8s. 6d. or 10s. 6d. was better than only getting

say 4s. or 5s. for a steel pair. After a time I found that the unmounted lenses in the trial case were not always convenient, so I exchanged all the low powers up to 5d in the spheres and to 2d in the cylinders for mounted lenses. The powers higher than these being so seldom wanted, it is not worth paying for the rims. Naturally if anyone takes optics up they must have a room of the necessary size, and one that is free to work in quietly. My stock at first consisted of three each frames straight side, curl, astigmatic, and folder in rolled-gold and aluminene, a few cases, and three dozen assorted convex lenses. Naturally it is much more now, but I stood to lose very little if the speculation had not come off. Any case that does not gain considerably by glasses and when the vision is bad, I always send to an eye doctor (we have two in the town). There is one thing in charging for this class of goods that may not seem strictly proper, but I find must be done. A poor or middle-class person prefers R.G. frames, but a price higher than 8s. 6d. is out of the question, while the better class of customer, used to buying at high-class opticians, thinks that a good frame cannot be purchased under 15s. or so. I keep the best frames only, but vary the price as necessary.

Yours truly,

HARRY BULLOCK.

Subscribers’ Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among “C. & D.” readers.

Optical Education.

In his paper before the Australian Pharmaceutical Conference, Mr. Robert Tocher said: “It may not be generally known that some thirty-four years ago THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST advocated spectacles as a side-line for chemists, and ever since then no journal has encouraged or given more help to optical education than our beloved and world-renowned CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.”

Interpretations.

The inquiry in the *C. & D.*, March 1, index folio 355, for interpretations of a request for “Oxococia” and “Paddysulta” was somewhat obscured by the suggestion that these substances were of Hindoo origin. The request has, however, brought several replies:

Try emp. oxycrocus (see any other wholesale list)—a black plaster resembling pitch somewhat. And why not “Powdered sulphur” for “Paddysulta”?—*F. C.* (99/9).

No doubt empl. oxycrocica and emp. Paracelsus are intended. Herewith we send you our formula for emp. oxycrocica as made here in 1856 and previously:

Resinae flav.	...	...	...	...	1b. iiiss.
Cerae flav.	...	...	...	...	1b. ss.
Picis nig.	...	...	...	...	3xiij.

The nearest thing to emp. Paracelsus is emp. plumbi.—*Grimble & Kent* (Boston).

“Oxococia” is probably “Oxycroceum plaster,” *Edin. Ph.*, 1744. “Paddysulta” in the same connection is “Paracelsus’ plaster.” Both may be found in Gray’s Supplement. They had a common sale here some twenty-eight years ago, and were usually sold together in 1d. and 2d. sticks.—*C. F. Loggin* (Stratford-on-Avon).

Not too Old for the “Minor.”

Some time ago you published a letter from “A Small But Qualified Pharmacist,” and as my experience has been much the same I thought, with your permission, to place my views on the qualification before your readers. I derived great benefit from the letter then published, also great encouragement, because at the time I was deeply engrossed in the struggle to surmount the Minor. A little under twelve months ago my employer, with whom I had been six years, informed me that owing to dull trade he could not keep me on. I had reckoned on being there all my days. To a man of thirty-four years of age, married, and unqualified it was a smashing blow. At home the news was received with the remark that “now there was nothing but to get qualified.” So we removed our household to Edinburgh, and I commenced the day classes. It was a terrible struggle to commence. I hadn’t studied to any great extent; the financial worry was not calculated to help me any. But, cheered and assisted by the efforts of my wife, I struggled on, sometimes greatly discouraged by my slowness in picking up and remembering things. But now, after six months’ day classes, at my first attempt I have qualified as a pharmacist. My object therefore in writing this letter is simply to encourage anyone like myself, up in years and short of finance, to

make an effort and get it over. I feel quite a different individual, and I now realise all that it means to be qualified, and I would urge all similarly situated as myself to go and do likewise.—*Nit Desperandum* (234/90).

Dispensing Notes.

This section is for the discussion and solution of dispensing problems and prescriptions submitted by "C. & D." readers. We are always pleased to receive the opinions of readers for publication. "The Art of Dispensing" ("C. & D." Office, 6s.) is the standard book of reference on this subject.

Nux and Alkali Mixture.

SIR,—We find that the subjoined mixture when recently dispensed is of a dark opaque colour, without precipitate, but upon standing about an hour a flocculent precipitate is thrown down and the mixture becomes much darker in colour, finally becoming a bluish brown. We believe the former is due to a precipitation of the alkaloids of the tinctures by the spt. amm. co. and sod. bicarb., and the latter to the presence of copper in the tr. nuc. vom. We shall be glad if you will kindly give us your valued opinion on the matter.

Tr. nucis vom.	...	...	...	5iss.
Tr. gelsemii	...	...	...	5j.
Sodii bicarb.	...	...	...	3iv.
Spt. amm. co.	...	...	...	3iij.
Aq. ad	...	...	...	3viij.

Ft. mist.

Yours faithfully,

MIDLANDER (236/2).

[This mixture should not be dark in colour when newly dispensed. It is just of a straw colour, there being insufficient colour in the tinctures to do more than faintly tint the opaque white produced by the essential oils in the sal volatile being thrown out of solution by the water. Nor is there any flocculent precipitate, nor precipitation of alkaloids, even after standing for a week. The mixture is too dilute to afford any precipitate of the alkaloids. We observe, moreover, that the mixture has not darkened appreciably on standing. There is probably something abnormal about one of "Midlander's" constituents. The bluish colour is probably, as suggested, the result of a trace of copper in the nux vomica reacting with the ammonia. Nux extract does not, however, always contain copper; at least, if it always contains it the tincture does not always take it up; in fact, its occurrence in the tincture is rare in our experience.]

An Iodide Mixture.

SIR,—I had occasion a short time ago to make up the following prescription:

Pot. iodid.	...	...	...	gr. xlvijj.
Syr. ferri iodid.	...	...	...	5xij.
Aquam destil. ad	...	...	...	3vj.—M.

After a few days a white precipitate formed, the exact nature of which I am unable to ascertain. I should be grateful to you if you would inform me as to its composition.

Yours sincerely,

AN APPRENTICE (232/64).

[We have been unable to obtain the precipitate described, and as to the nature of the one obtained by our correspondent, we can only suggest that he has made the mixture with tap-water containing air and lime in solution. If this be so, a precipitate of ferrous carbonate changing to hydroxide would most likely occur and might correspond to that observed. Make the mixture again, using recently boiled and cooled distilled water, and see what happens. If the materials be normal there should be no precipitate, and the mixture will only acquire an increasing yellow tint, which even at the end of eight days is scarcely perceptible in a green flint dispensing-bottle. See the "Art of Dispensing," ninth edition, p. 299, for a description of changes which occur in iodide mixtures such as are likely to be met with in practice.]

Legal Queries.

Before writing about your difficulty consult "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1913, pp. 211-242 and pp. 457-459, where most legal difficulties are anticipated.

Oxenham (252/57).—A sign "Prescriptions dispensed" may be exhibited legally by anybody so long as poisons are not dispensed.

March (256/34).—DOCTORS' DISPENSERS' NOTICE.—We are not aware of any cases in which a custom has been established as to the period of notice for the termination of

such engagements. We have known cases where a week's notice only was given, but we imagine that if any case were going to trial it would be established that the notice usual in the retail drug-trade also should apply to doctors—namely, one month.

Commission (257/74).—The actual terms of an agreement between PRINCIPAL AND AGENT must be submitted to us before we can tell whether or not a particular transaction comes within the terms as to the payment of commission to the agent. Judging, however, from the nature of the transaction that you describe, there was not an effective delivery of the goods in the case you mention, so that the agent cannot legally or reasonably claim commission.

Manager (232/7).—RETAIL CHEMISTS SELLING POISON TO RETAIL CHEMISTS.—Our correspondent asks if it is necessary by law for him, a registered chemist, to give a written order to a neighbouring retail chemist for a Part 1 poison which he requires to dispense by prescription. [Such sales are not in any way exempted by Section 17 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and the proper course for the retail chemist who supplies such poison to pursue is to enter it in the poison-book and get the signature of the purchaser. See the paragraph on "Wholesale Dealing" in the *C. & D. Diary*, p. 216.]

Remijia (257/18).—THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION is supplied by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to registered chemists and druggists on condition that it is returned at the end of a year. It is not necessary for Minor men who have their Minor certificate to obtain the annual certificate, as the Minor certificate meets the requirements of the Act. The 1908 Act requires the exhibition of a certificate by a registered chemist in any shop which he manages. If he does not, he is subject to a penalty of 5*l.* on conviction, but his name cannot be struck off the Register for that reason.

Hants (249/25).—A. B. borrowed a sum of money from J., and C. D., by letter addressed to J., in consideration of the loan, agreed to guarantee repayment of it "to an amount not exceeding in all the sum of the first 200*l.* with interest thereon." A. B. is in arrear with the interest upon the loan, and J. now calls upon C. D. to pay 200*l.* Is C. D. liable to pay, and, if so, when? [In our opinion C. D. is liable to pay the 200*l.* to J. if and when A. B. has made default in the repayment of the loan. C. D. must in his turn recover the 200*l.* from A. B. We presume that C. D.'s liability as surety has not been discharged in any way, and perhaps he had better consult a solicitor.]

M.P.S. (239/45).—DOCTORS' DISPENSERS.—The evidence which you submit regarding the dispensing experience of your friend is so lacking in dates that it does not prove that he for three years immediately prior to the passing of the National Insurance Act acted as a dispenser to a duly qualified medical practitioner or a public institution. Although he was apparently fifteen years engaged with public institutions, six months of that period being with a doctor, it does not follow that the fifteen years include three years immediately prior to the passing of the Act; but if it does he is entitled to dispense National Insurance prescriptions without the supervision of a registered chemist.

Overtime (253/27).—SHOPS ACT.—(1) Can I employ an assistant for dispensing only under Insurance Act after 1.30 on Wednesday, the Council's closing order having taken effect, without having to give him another day off? [No; he must get his half-day once a week.] (2) Can an unqualified assistant, who has dispensed for a doctor in a chemist's shop for three years immediately preceding passing of Act, take charge for Insurance dispensing during absence of qualified employer? [Yes, so far as the Insurance Act is concerned, if he was employed by the doctor; but that Act does not override the Pharmacy and Poisons Act provisions as to the dispensing of poisons.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information which has been given in this section during the past twelve months, as it occupies space which can be more profitably utilised for other information. In such cases the numbers are mentioned, and if querists cannot refer to these they may obtain the numbers from the "C. & D." Office at the published prices, usually 6*d.*

We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles, and when samples are sent particulars should be supplied to us as to their origin, what they are, what they are used for and how.

H. J. C. (226/37).—TREATMENT OF EXOPHTHALMUS.—When it was recognised that exophthalmic goitre, or Graves' disease, was caused by some defect of the thyroid, the

operation of thyroidectomy (extirpation of the thyroid) was suggested and found to give relief. A cure did not, however, result, a condition of myxœdema being brought about. It was then argued that, as sufferers from this disease have hyperthyreism—i.e., excessive charge of the internal secretion of the thyroid glands—and as animals from which the thyroid body has been removed accumulated in their systems toxic substances capable of neutralising excessive thyroidal secretion, it would be beneficial to sufferers to employ the flesh, serum, milk, etc., of thyroidectomised animals. Lanz, of Amsterdam, in 1904 first suggested the use of milk from thyroidectomised goats. He gave from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a litre of the milk daily with good results. Patients, however, cannot be got to take the milk after a time, and Burghart and Blumenthal prepared an active principle from the milk by precipitation with alcohol. This precipitate mixed with sugar of milk is called rodagen, and is given in doses of 3ss. to 5j. three times a day. Another preparation, made from the blood of thyroidectomised animals by Parke, Davis & Co., is known as thyroidectin. The dose is 5 grains three times a day. The administration of these remedies has been strongly advocated by Moebius. Lademann ("American Medicine," November 19, 1904) claims successful results with the goats' milk. Batty Shaw ("Medical Annual," 1907) says it is time to call a halt, as the evidence upon which these remedies are employed is much too slender. He states, moreover, that 25 per cent. of untreated cases recover. Gullan ("Lancet," September 5, 1908) reports improvement in cases where rodagen and thyroidectin were employed. Edmunds ("Lancet," April 10, 1909) reports seven cases treated with the milk of thyroidless goats, of which five "improved." Layton ("Journal of the American Medical Association," April 22, 1911) reports in regard to the use of the thyroidectin that in five cases no more than temporary improvement was obtained, and in some the symptoms were aggravated.

H. M. H. (251/35).—GRAVES' DISEASE.—This disease (exophthalmic goitre) is a very troublesome one to treat, and in the case you mention all the usual forms of treatment appear to have been tried. The thyroid treatment has to be used with great judgment, and has been known to be effective in late cases (i.e., after the thyroid secretion has become defective); in the earlier stages of the disease this is in excess, and to give thyroid extract is adding fuel to fire. There is no doubt that complete rest, with perhaps bromides, is sometimes the most effective symptomatic treatment. Neutral hydrobromide of quinine in 5-grain capsules has been known to have a very good effect, and sour-milk treatment has its advocates. Kocher has had striking results from the removal of part of the gland, but statistics seem to show that the expectation of life is quite as good in such cases without resort to operation.

C. W. (236/28).—LIME-CREAM AND GLYCERIN.—It is not possible to guarantee that a particular formula will not separate, as during extremes of temperature most of the preparations with which we are acquainted show a slight separation. The following is a good formula which has been employed successfully on a large scale:

Ol. nuois	...	...	...	5xl.
Aq. calcis	...	...	...	3xviiij.
Liq. calc. sacch.	...	...	...	3vj.
Glycerini	...	...	...	3iv.
P. boracis	...	...	...	3j.
Ol. limonis	...	...	...	3iv.
Ol. caryoph.	...	...	...	xxlviiij.
Ol. bergam.	...	...	...	mlxxx.

Place the oil and perfumes into a large bottle and add the aq. calcis and liq. calcis sacch. previously mixed, a small quantity at a time, shaking well between each addition. Then add the borax dissolved in the glycerin.

F. A. B. (Sydney, N.S.W.) (235/41).—CARBOLIC TOOTH-POWDER.—The reason why your carboric tooth-powder becomes less pungent on keeping is because the carboric acid combines with the chalk to form the carborate—which has less taste. With a view of preventing the combination, some makers rub the carboric acid with powdered starch before adding to the other ingredients, the phenol becoming enmeshed by the starch and protected from contact with the chalk.

H. M. R. (238/54).—SHAMPOO-POWDER FOR DOGS.—The only variety with which we are acquainted is that made with magnesia, but possibly similar preparations to those used on ladies' hair would be equally available for dogs. Many formulæ for the toilet shampoo-powders have been published in past volumes of the *C. & D.*

J. E. L. (248/1).—VACUUM FLASKS.—These are made according to the method worked out by Sir James Dewar for

the flasks which he devised for liquid air. The silvering of the glass is done by the precipitation method (see *C. & D.*, November 25, 1912, index folio 799), and the vacuum is produced by the mercury pump, with the employment of charcoal where the highest vacua are needed. There is no book published on the method of making vacuum flasks.

J. P. B. (245/24).—PILL-VARNISH.—The following, from "The Art of Dispensing," are quick-drying varnishes for pills:

<i>John Bell & Co.'s Formula.</i>	<i>Squire & Sons' Formula.</i>
Sandarac ... 3ivss.	Sandarac ... 3iiij.
Methylated chloroform ... 3ivss.	Absolute alcohol ... 3vj.
Methylated ether (0.717) .. 3ix.	Ether ... 3iiij.

Oleacious (229/70).—MISCIBLE OILS.—such as are employed for lubricating drilling machinery, are emulsions of mineral oils in "the soaps of sulphurised fatty acids or rosin acids," but we do not know the exact method of procedure in preparing the emulsions.

R. M. (239/43).—METAL-POLISH.—For recipes refer to the indexes of the last few volumes of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*.

Food (233/72).—CASEIN FOODS.—The proportion of sodium glycerophosphate added to casein in the preparation of the newer foods is 5 per cent. In the case of Sanatogen there is chemical combination, not a mere mixing. Some foods contain the calcium salt, and others both glycerophosphates, while judging from our observations when experimenting with some commercial foods, we believe one contains a little iron glycerophosphate.

G. H. A. (234/1).—PRESERVING MUSEUM SPECIMENS.—The crudest method is to use methylated spirit, but there are several disadvantages connected with its employment. The best fluid is probably the medium devised by Wickerscheuer, of the Berlin Zoologic Museum, the formula for which was published in the *C. & D.*, January 20, 1912 (Coloured Supplement).

Phenactin (240/44).—COPYING-BOOK.—The greasiness in the paper of copying-book which prevents letters being reproduced perfectly is overcome to a large extent by the addition of ox gall to the water used for moistening the paper. It is not, however, a perfect remedy for the trouble.

W. S. B. (190/25).—NITRIC ACID FROM THE AIR.—It was in the *C. & D.*, December 16, 1905, p. 945, that we first described the process for obtaining nitric acid from the air, and since then frequent references have been made to the progress of the new industry. An illustrated article appeared in the *C. & D.*, February 10, 1906, p. 225. The commercial products, basic calcium nitrate and calcium cyanamide, are made on a large scale for use as fertilisers.

J. R. W. (151/13).—THE ECZEMA-OINTMENT is a trifle to the strong side, but we fancy its reputation depends upon that fact.

Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," March 14, 1863.

The Forthcoming Festival.

We are delighted to hear that arrangements have been made for a friendly meeting of the members of the trade. The Committee of the "United Society of Chemists and Druggists" have engaged the great hall of the Freemasons' Tavern for the evening of Thursday, April 9, and have obtained the consent of Mr. Western Wood, M.P., to preside over the meeting. We trust that the energetic gentlemen composing the Committee will be well supported in their responsibility, and that our excellent City member will have the opportunity of seeing a strong muster of that class in which he has taken so great an interest. The members of almost every profession and trade meet once a year or oftener to exchange thoughts and promote mutual understanding; but the chemists and druggists, who, as educated men, are peculiarly adapted for friendly intercourse, have hitherto been singularly repellent of one another. We hope that the dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern will draw many together who have never met before, for we know how much the trade is in need of the strength which union gives. The Committee are determined to make the meeting attractive, for we learn that arrangements will be made to invite the ladies to the dinner. Their presence will give grace to the gathering, and will materially assist the Benevolent Fund, for Charity is truly represented as a woman.